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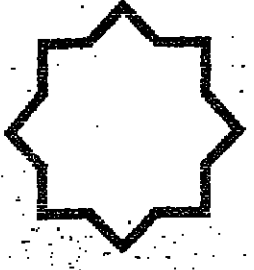
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# The Star



Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 23 — 29 MAY, 1996, VOLUME 7, NUMBER 2, 350 fils

## Jordanians see little difference between Likud and Labor Peres anxious to resolve strained relations with Jordan before elections

By Raed Al Abed  
Star Staff Writer

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS are underway to relieve the strain in Jordanian-Israeli relations one week before the holding of the Israeli elections. Israel's continued closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and its two-week blitz against Lebanon last month have brought chill to relations between Jordan and Israel for the first time since the two countries signed their peace treaty in 1994.

This week's planned meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak in London was aimed at patching things up in the wake of recent regional developments. Sources said the meeting should focus on the recent strain that affected bilateral relations and that the two countries will try to resume strategic dialogue which was postponed after the bloody events in Lebanon.

The Jerusalem Post reported this week that Prime Minister Shimon Peres summoned his top aides to discuss ways to resolve strains in relations with Jordan. The paper reported that Peres met with Israel's envoy to Jordan, Shimon Shamir, who "repeatedly warned [Israel's] foreign ministry about the impact of recent events upon Jordanian public opinion."

In addition to their anger over Israel's Grapes of Wrath operation, Jordanian officials have expressed their disappointment over the slow progress in developing trade ties and implementing bilateral agreements. Jordan is said to be anxious to increase its exports to Palestinian territories while it wants Israel to pump an extra 50 million cubic meters of water in addition to the 50

million that it had agreed to pump to Jordan. But Israeli officials denied that they are expected to supply Jordan with the extra water.

"Over the past few months, a shadow has been cast on our relations with Israel, including the closure of West Bank and Operation Grapes of Wrath," Omar Al Rifai, Jordan's ambassador to Israel, told the Jerusalem Post this week. "The average Jordanian also wants to see more economic benefits as a result of peace, and public opinion is impatient."

Israeli reports confirmed that King Hussein is upset with Peres. They reported that the King had declined an invitation to meet with him and President Bill Clinton in Washington last month. The same reports said that Peres wanted to visit Amman last week to help boost his reelection campaign, but Jordan withheld the invitation. Israeli press reports say King Hussein declined to appear with Peres on both occasions in order to maintain his neutrality between Labor and Likud few weeks before the elections.

The two major Israeli parties are campaigning for the 29 May election. The Labor led government signed the Oslo agreement with the PLO in 1993 and concluded a peace treaty with Jordan the following year. It is the same government that initiated talks with Syria earlier this year.

While many Arab governments stated that the Israeli elections are an internal issue, the reality is that all hope that Labor will win. For the Palestinians, a Likud victory will mean the end of the peace process.

"It is the worst Arab situation to link their policies with the Israeli election results," said Mr. Tayseer Zehri, member of the Palestinian National Council. "They must concentrate on how Arab and Palestinian negotiators will unite to confront Israeli hegemony, whether it is Labor or Likud in the driver's seat."

For many Arabs, the Labor party, which ruled throughout Israel's major wars against the Arabs from 1948 to 1977, is no different from the more radical Likud in its dealing with Palestinian and Arab causes. During the Palestinian Uprising, which started in 1987, a Labor defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, allowed the "iron fist policy" and the bone-breaking policy against Palestinian civilians. The recent Qana massacre in Lebanon which claimed over 100 lives, added another stain to Labor's record.

Continued on page 2

## Experts say 'oil-for-food' pact does not signal end of UN sanctions

By Munther Hamdan  
Star Staff Writer

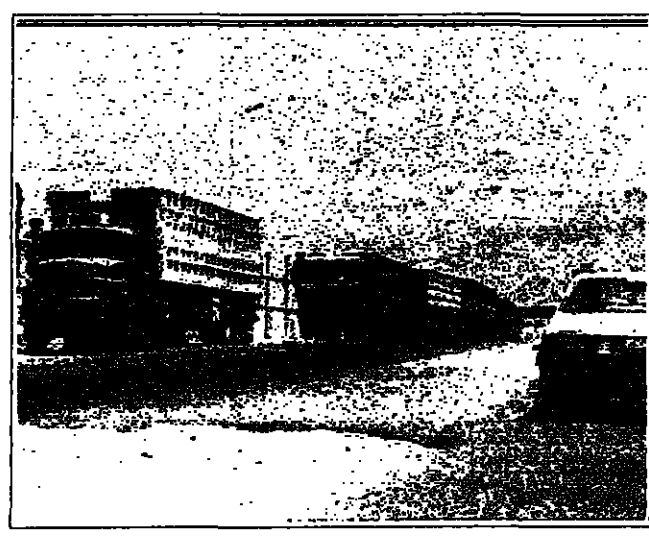
THE OIL-for-food agreement recently concluded between Iraq and the UN has triggered changes on the regional political and economic fronts, which have long been governed by the six-year old embargo on Iraq.

Under the agreement, signed in New York this week, Iraq will be allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months. Iraqis have waited long for a successful conclusion of the negotiations which they see as signalling the beginning of a long march towards a total lift up of what they see as unjust sanctions.

Though disbursement of revenues will be strictly monitored by the UN, many hope this step will help reduce the deteriorating economic situation which deprived Iraqis of their basic needs from food and medicine.

Expectations of what fruits the agreement might eventually yield vary. In Jordan some see it as a step towards a complete lifting of the sanctions, while others doubt it will be effective.

"Incongruous opinions about the accord make it hard to come up with full expectation about the future," Senator Jawad Al Anani, a former minister and an economic expert,



Trucks on the way to Iraq: Business as usual?

told The Star. He added that while Iraqi chief negotiator Abdel Amir Al Anbari looks upon the agreement as a first step towards a complete lifting of the embargo, US UN envoy Madeleine Albright saw it otherwise.

"On the contrary, this partial agreement may protract the possibility of a lasting solution," said Taher Al Adwan, a political analyst.

The impact of the deal on

Jordan-Iraqi trading relations is still ambiguous. Bilateral trade was lately influenced by incoherent political statements from the two sides. The question remains if the latest deal with the UN will have a bearing on Jordan's commercial ties with Baghdad and the size of Jordanian exports to Iraq especially after the recent downsizing of the commercial protocol between the two countries from about \$400 million to \$200 million.

lion. "The reduction was based on certain economic realities in both Jordan and Iraq," said Anani. "Iraq's importing abilities have been severely decreased." The value of the protocol, he added, was sizable in the year before the reduction but in actual fact it was not fully invested by Jordan.

Tension between the two countries escalated recently as the government of Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti attempted to shift Jordan's economic attention from Iraq to the Gulf. This, among other things, has left Jordanians per-

Continued on page 2

## Money exchangers still weary about Iraqi dinar

THE IRAQI dinar witnessed a 20 percent increase in the last two days according to downtown Amman traders after news of Iraq's acceptance of the "oil-for-food" deal was announced.

"The Iraqi dinar's rate shot up from one JD per 1200 Iraqi dinars last week to one JD per 800 today," Mr. Hani Saudi, owner of the Saudi Exchange Corp., told The Star on Wednesday.

"In spite of the agreement, trading in the Iraqi currency is still weak," Saudi said.

In 1993, the Iraqi government cancelled the 25-dinar bill (the so-called Swiss note) and many people and businessmen in Jordan lost all their savings estimated at millions of dollars. "People still have a bad experience," Saudi added.

But most money exchangers are not yet ready to deal with the Iraqi currency, believing it is a risky business.

"We buy the cancelled bills at JD 6 per 1000 Iraqi dinars," Mr. Saudi said.

## Cairo's dwindling green spaces

By John Lancaster  
LA Times Washington Post News Service

CAIRO—Once this was a city of gardens, of shady riverfront parks and landscape architects imported from France. A brass band played every Friday at the wrought-iron handstand in Ezekiya Garden.

But like so many of Cairo's charms, the gardens have all but succumbed to the relentless pressures of population growth and urbanization. Even the banks of the Nile are mostly off limits—claimed for luxury hotels, restaurants, clubs and other private uses.

Lamented in newspaper articles and other forums, the destruction of Cairo's green space has lately become something of a political issue, winning even the attention of President Hosni Mubarak, who recently intervened to save a mango grove slated for development.

Such outcomes are rare, however. For those seeking relief from air pollution and crowds in this nerve-jangling city of 15 million, just finding a quiet spot to spread a picnic blanket can be an impossible task. Private clubs, the favored

refuge of the rich, are beyond the financial reach of most residents; public parks typically charge a small admission and often are overrun.

The shortage is especially noticeable this time of year. Escaping stifling apartments in search of a cool evening breeze, residents gather on bridges and traffic circles—even the grassy median on the busy airport road, a site so popular that it draws vendors of tea and cotton candy.

So it was the other night, when Khalid Ali set up a small metal barbecue at the base of a palm tree on the median, seemingly oblivious to the roar of traffic and low-flying jets.

"There are other places, but you have to pay money to get in," said Ali, 30, a clerk at a government ministry, as his wife and two small children frolicked nearby.

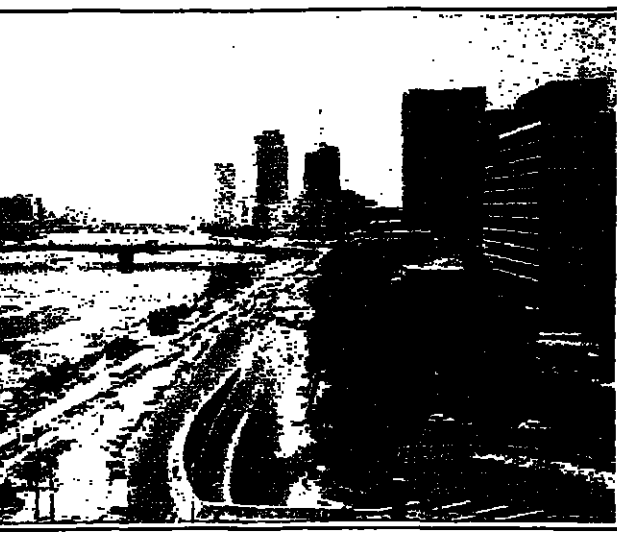
Besides, he added, "it's a large space, and the children are able to play with ease. The houses are hot so we have to go out."

Westerners often are amazed by such scenes. "It brings up the whole question of what is the nature of crowding," said Barbara Ibrahim, regional director of the Population Council and a longtime Cairo

resident. "They just need a patch of grass, and the fact that cars are whizzing by 10 feet away doesn't seem to bother them, maybe because they've never known anything else."

Situated in the fertile Nile Valley and bathed in year-round sunshine, Cairo is ideal for gardens, which have flourished here since pharaonic times. According to the semi-official Al Ahram Weekly, many of Cairo's gardens, or what remains of them, are a legacy of Khedive Ismail, a 19th-century ruler who sought to Europeanize the capital by re-creating the formal landscapes of Paris's Bois de Boulogne, among other parks. Many such gardens were attached to palaces and barred to the public.

More recently, however, Cairo's green space acquired a populist tinge: Gamal Abdel Nasser, the leader of the 1952 rebellion that overthrew the monarchy, decreed that all citizens should have access to the Nile, and he ordered the British Embassy to surrender its river lawn and marina, among other measures.



Cairo: Once the city of lush gardens

But now the transformation of Cairo into one of the world's most desperately overcrowded cities has all but obliterated its inventory of green space. Some was taken for housing, hospitals, schools and roads. In the view of many critics, however, much was also lost to rampant commercial development and greed.

A recent study by the city's department of public works and water resources found that 90 percent of the Nile riverfront in Cairo has been taken over for commercial and pri-

ivate use, including exclusive clubs for military officers, police, judges and other government officials.

"It's preventing people from enjoying it," said Ahmed Fathi Khalifi, 26, as he and thousands of other Cairenes jostled for space one recent night on a newly built riverfront plaza, one of the few public access points on the Nile. Added Khalifi, a construction firm supervisor, "The Nile is something that should be owned by every Egyptian. It is the artery of life."

## World Report

## Jordan marks 50th Independence Day

On Saturday, 25 May, Jordan celebrates its 50th anniversary of independence. On this occasion, The Star congratulates His Majesty King Hussein and the Jordanian people. It was on 25 May 1946 that the Anglo-Jordan Treaty was terminated paving the way for the establishment of the Kingdom of Jordan. (See inside pages for a full supplement on this occasion).



La Jordanie fête 50 ans d'indépendance  
A LIRE p. 16 dans LE JOURDAIN

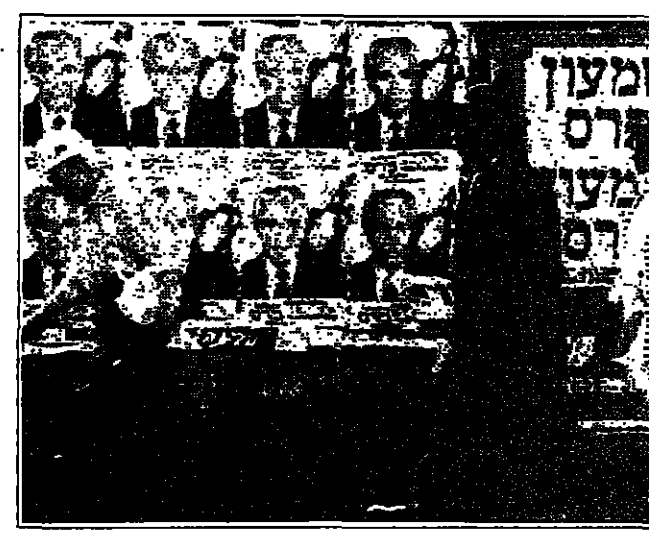
## Israeli Arab leader urges Palestinian vote for Peres

By Ellen Yan  
LA Times Washington Post News Service

JERUSALEM—For the first time, a prominent Israeli Arab leader Tuesday urged Palestinians to cast their ballots for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, a sign of support from a crucial group of voters who have threatened to boycott the tight election.

On another front, the army, citing information from interrogation of a captured Hamas activist, said it had captured 32 suspected Palestinian militants in two days of raids. The leads came from Hassan Salameh, accused of masterminding the suicide bombings that killed 59 people this year. Soldiers shot him as he tried to flee a road-block Friday.

But analysts questioned whether those arrests or the urgings of Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab who is a top aide to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, will radically change the course of the May 29 voting. The narrow gap between Labor's Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu of the headline Likud Party has remained



Peres' success hangs on which way Arab vote will swing

stable for weeks, they said, through the Israeli barrage against Hezbollah that killed 102 civilians in Lebanon and through the border closings of the Israeli-occupied areas, they said. The bombardment and the closings prompted Israeli Arabs. Labor's allies months ago, to threaten an election boycott.

"The endorsement of the Arab party is less important than how active they will be in getting the people out to the polls," said Gerald Steinberg, a senior researcher at the Begin-Saddat Center for Strategic Studies in Tel Aviv.

Continued on page 2

## Report on Iraq accuses Security Council of collective punishment

By Oroub Al Abed  
Special to The Star

AMMAN—An independent fact-finding group of legal, public health, economic and medical experts studying the effect of the six-year-old UN sanctions regime on the Iraqi people has strongly criticized the Security Council for maintaining a policy of collective punishment and called on it to explicitly recognize its human rights obligations to the Iraqi people.

The group's findings, published this week, coincided with Iraq's landmark acceptance of a UN "oil-for-food" deal this week. A 34-page report of the mission that included doctors, lawyers, economists and public health experts, criticized the UN sanctions regime accusing it of violating the UN Charter and international law. "The case of Iraq illustrates why sanctions are not always a humane alternative to war," the report says. "How can the international community and the Security Council view the deaths of so many children with indifference and inaction? How can the evil deeds of one man—even an entire government—be used to justify such an unprecedented violation of child rights?" the report asks.

In a press conference held Tuesday in Amman by the repre-



The report accused the Security Council of violating children's right to life

sentative of the Center of Economic and Social Rights (CESR), an NGO based in New York, the findings and conclusions of the report entitled "UN Sanctioned Suffering: The human rights assessment of UN sanctions on Iraq" was made public.

Based to the documentation of a 34-member mission, which visited Iraq in April, the report indicated that high prices for basic commodities and declining real wages and high rates of unemployment have reduced a

large number of people to penury.

The report examines the sanctions and their effect on the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, especially economic collapse, food security and health conditions. It also includes the findings of the CESR mission to Iraq and a legal assessment of the UN sanctions on Iraq. The multi-national mission included experts from the United States, Japan, Spain, Jordan, Pakistan, Romania, Italy,

Continued on page 3



# JORDAN WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



His Majesty King Hussein receives the Sir Winston Churchill Award for his outstanding contribution towards securing peace in the Middle East. The award was given by Lady Soames at a ceremony held in London's Guildhall, on Monday. "I am most deeply moved and touched by the award," he received tonight, which I shall always treasure, but more than that, by the thoughtfulness of our friends in helping us deal with one of the most formidable challenges in our region—water and water research," the King said. The Winston Churchill award was instituted in 1987.

## Muslim blue-print for new era

The Islamic Action Front (IAF) has been active in sending memorandums to Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabari. The latest memo called on the PM to be diligent and forthright. Indeed the memo is something of a blue print for future action.



Al Kabari

The IAF calls on the government to introduce a new electoral law, in the forthcoming extraordinary parliamentary session, and abolish the current single vote system. The Islamists urge the government to free all political prisoners and stop harassing those who are sympathetic to Hamas. The memo, which was presented by the IAF General Secretary Dr Ishaq Al Farhan, urges the government to allow prisoners full access to lawyers and be allowed visiting rights as stated by the prisons law.

The issue of the Friday sermons was another bone of contention. The IAF wants all preachers who have been banned from delivering Friday sermons to be reinstated. In what could be seen as a disturbing mood by some, the party wants the government to cancel the licenses of night

clubs and to close down new coffee bars. It wants stricter control of cinemas and video shops and not to give licences to new liquor shops. But the IAF also called on the government not to remove its subsidy on essential commodities such as bread and to re-evaluate its decision to increase the prices of water and electricity. The party stressed that the government provides a working program to deal with employment and poverty. Surprisingly, the normalization issue with Israel came second place this time. However, the Islamists called on the Prime Minister to bring pressure on the Americans not to hand Hamas leader Musa Abu Marzouk, who is in a US jail, to Israel.

## TCC moves ahead

At last the Telecommunication Corp. (TCC) is moving and doing something about the state of the telephone system in this country. No more frustration, no more waiting, no more constant redialling and bashing the telephone set in the process. About 440,000 extra lines will be made available within the next three years, the TCC announced. The Tia' Al Ali exchange will start functioning on 25 May to mark Jordan's 50 years of independence. The exchange will operate 30,000 new lines. Amman itself will be receiving about 145,000 new numbers in the next three years. This is indeed wonderful news. But to

make the telephone system even more efficient the TCC is moving into the seven digit system, which would mean telephones galore!

## Not guilty, says Honorary Consul

"I am not guilty," the Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka, Mr Tawfiq Abu Khajil, told the judges at the Amman Criminal Court this week. The consul is charged with allegedly selling babies and forgery of official documents. Two other defendants are also charged. The sitting was adjourned till Sunday 26 May. The defendant has been refused bail.

## Qadi wins north bedouin constituency

The byelection for the North Bedouin Constituency was won by Dr Trad Saud Al Qadi. He received 3862. The seat was left vacant by the sudden death of Nawaf Al Qadi. As the name suggests this is a tribal constituency and neither the nationalists or Islamists had a chance of winning.



Al Qadi

## Nasser on corruption

We are on the corruption wagon, again this week. The Minister of Administrative Development, Dr Kamal Nasser, said that there must be a greater political will to fight corruption. And this is a member of the government talking! Speaking at the Writers Association, he said the issue of corruption is not a local phenomena, but an international one. Corruption is very dangerous to society, he said. He described it as a crime against humanity and therefore it must be eradicated.

## Red meat for the chop

About 17 tons of imported red meat were destroyed by the Amman slaughterhouse. The Bulgarian meat had no proper documentation. The merchant who imported the meat was ordered to produce a certificate of origin. But after 10 days the meat was destroyed and quite right too! With the threat of mad cow disease looming on the horizon, the authorities in Jordan have no choice but to adhere

to strict health regulations.

## 1st education summit in December

The 1996 World Assembly of Education, hosted by the Jordanian government and organized by the International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET), will convene next December in Amman to discuss "Teacher Education and School Reform." ICET, which was founded in Oxford England in 1953, is an international NGO of educational organizations, institutions and individuals dedicated to the improvement of teacher education and training related to national development.

## Skeletons in the cupboard

A diplomat at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, who was ordered to return to Baghdad, has disappeared in mysterious circumstances, according to the opposition Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation. Saad Abd Al Ridda was due to leave Iraq in 25 March, but was never seen or heard of since. Al Ridda, who was head of public relations at the embassy, was last seen packing his belongings. Another former diplomat at the embassy in Amman, who was head of Iraqi intelligence at the embassy, was also recalled to Baghdad but never got there either. Salem Abd Al Hussein Al Rubai was also due to leave the same day with Al Ridda.

## JPA angry with Minister of Information

The Jordan Press Association (JPA) is angry with Minister of Information Dr Marwan Muasher. JPA officials say the minister wants to reduce the power of the association. A JPA statement said they were not fully consulted when the minister drew up a new draft law for the association. Further, Dr Muasher did not take into account the JPA recommendations. The statement argued that the minister failed to meet with the council of the association to discuss the draft law before sending it to the Legislative Bureau in



Al Muasher



Jamal Rifaat Ad Dousour

## Japan Week in Amman promises to be a big hit

The Japanese Cultural Week will be held between 8 till 29 June in Amman. It's actually a cultural bonanza since it goes on for three weeks. Prince Takamado, the fourth in line of succession to the Japanese throne will open the week. The Japanese Week is aimed at increasing Jordanian awareness of Japanese culture and life, said the Japanese Ambassador in Amman, Mr Takayaki Kimura.

There will be many exciting activities, and exhibitions. On display is the traditional Japanese kimono, dolls, lithographs, porcelain, calligraphy, and paper designs. There will be a four-day Japanese film festival. The movies are all subtitled in English. There will also be many seminars on Japanese-Jordanian relations. These include the role of the private sector in both countries, development of the tourism industry, and the prospects of economic cooperation between Japan and Jordan and the status of women in both countries. The event is seen as a great opportunity to promote the already excellent relations that exist between the two countries. One of the objectives of the Week is to bring Japanese businessmen and intellectuals to Amman. It includes 21 different activities and 39 artistic performances, one fashion show, a martial arts (judo) show, two children shows, six exhibitions and nine movies. JTV will broadcast a number of Japanese television programs. There will also be a flower arrangement exhibition at the Royal Cultural Center, and a famous Japanese play entitled Medea. This is to be staged at the South Theater in Jerash.

The Institute of Diplomacy in Amman and the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association are organizing the Japanese Week. A national committee chaired by the Director of the Institute, Dr Mazen Al Armouti is organizing the event. He said that the Japan Week follows the



Kimura

Jordan Week held in Japan and is aimed at strengthening Jordan-Japanese cooperation in all aspects.

A one-day symposium is to be held on Jordanian-Japanese economic relations and development that include teams of experts from both countries. HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent will lead the Jordanian team. Sherif Jamil Ben Nasser, the honorary chairman of the National Committee of the Japanese Week, and president of the Jordan-Japan Friendship Association will conclude the symposium that is expected to issue declaration on Jordanian-Japanese relations.

the Prime Ministry where it is now waiting for final approval by the Council of Ministers. Officials in the JPA expressed their dismay, saying that this has never happened in the history of Jordan and that such actions go against the spirit of the government in dealing with the press and it is certainly not in line with the concept of transparency. JPA officials are demanding that the association's council be presented with the draft law for discussion and approval. If Dr Muasher ignores this, then the association is ready to take all the necessary legislative and legal measures available, presumably that means taking the minister to court.

although the statement did not specify, Dr Muasher seems to be taking the accusations with a pinch of salt. In another development, the minister told Al Hadath weekly that a recent US Department of State report on human rights paints a rosy picture about human rights and public freedoms in Jordan.

## PNA stands accused

The Arab Organization for Human Rights in Jordan seems to be expanding its scope of work this time to the PNA territories. It recently received complaints from Palestinians in the West Bank and

Gaza accusing the PNA of illegal practices and violations of human rights. The organization issued several statements and sent letters to the PNA asking for an explanation but received no answers. The violation was not limited to the average person as the PNA has detained Mr Iyad Al Sarraj head of the independent Palestinian committee claiming that his activities in support of human rights do not comply with the strategies and policies of the PNA. The organization called for an immediate release of Sarraj and a full commitment to international laws and legislations.

## Israeli Arab leader urges Palestinian vote for Peres

Continued from page 1

Israelis believe the outcome will determine their nation's approach to the Palestinians—either compromising and giving away land as Peres wants or adopting a tough stance as promised by Netanyahu, who has sworn never to shake Arafat's hand.

Polls show Peres with a 5 percent edge, and both candidates for prime minister have been hunting for something that will move enough of the electorate to win. Tibi dropped out of the parliamentary race after his party, Arab Movement for Change, calculated that he wouldn't get enough votes to win a seat in the Knesset.

"I think our responsibility as Arabs in Israel and Palestinians obliges us to support the man who can continue the peace process with the PLO and equality for the Arab population," he said in a telephone interview.

Other Arab leaders have withheld endorsement of Peres. Netanyahu isn't even considered an option—and accuse his party of reneging on past promises.

The Arab Democratic Party, which has two members in the parliament, decided during a top-level meeting Tuesday not to back Peres because it was unsatisfied with the "sweet talk" in recent discussions with Labor officials. The government has refused to disburse money allocated to Arab villages in Israel and to return land seized from Muslims, they said, citing their two top priorities.

"If he doesn't take us seriously before the election, we don't feel he will take our demands seriously after the election," said spokesman Mohammed Darawshe. "Many of our mosques are being used today as pubs and museums for non-Islamic and even anti-Islamic needs and issues. It's very humiliating."

Darawshe said Labor officials told him that agreeing to Arab demands could damage Peres among Jewish voters.

## Peres anxious to resolve strained relations with Jordan before elections

Continued from page 1

black-record. On the other hand, it was the Likud which first signed a peace treaty with an Arab state, relinquishing all of Sinai in 1979. A Likud-led government accepted the terms of the Madrid peace conference in 1991.

"There are no differences in goals between Labor and Likud, the only difference is in political maneuver and the distribution of

roles," said Dr Ghazi Rababa'a, professor of political science at the University of Jordan. "Both agree not to redeem Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty. At best, both will agree to internationalize East Jerusalem, while keeping the settlements."

With regard to the final status negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis, analysts believe there are no major differences between both Israeli parties. The Palestinians are demanding their

own state in the West Bank and Gaza, with Jerusalem as its capital, the right of return or compensation to the Palestinians in the diaspora and the removal of Israeli settlements. Both parties, maintain a firm rejection to the majority of these demands, particularly the issues of Jerusalem and refugees.

Concerning the Palestinian state, there is an emerging trend inside the Labor Party which supports the creation of a Pal-

estian state in Gaza with a flag and a seat in the United Nations. Regarding the West Bank that trend believes there should be a trilateral rule; Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli. Others even contemplate a confederation or a federation between Jordan and the Palestinians after the Palestinians build their state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Likud, on the other hand, believes in a limited self-rule regime for the Palestinians. "The Labor mimes words when it comes to the issue of settlements," Zebiri said. "It wants to distinguish between political and security settlements, but who is to say which is which?"

Likud, on the other hand, fully supports the settlements policy and promises to end any freezing on building and to expand existing ones.

"If Likud wins, things will be more complicated at the beginning. No doubt that the Labor will be more flexible as it is already involved in the peace process," Mr Issa Mdanat, general secretary of the moderate leftist Democratic Unity Party (DUP). "In fact both parties smooth their differences concerning their relations with the Arabs."

However analysts say even if Likud wins the elections, it could not recast its obligations towards the peace process, but it will be more tough with Palestinian and Arab negotiations.

"These elections are an Israeli affair. It is ironic that we should wait for Labor or others to solve our problems," said Mahmoud Remawi, a political analyst. "The only importance of these elections is that they put Israeli intentions towards peace under examination."

On negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, both Arab states want to see a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied land in both countries in accordance with UN resolutions. "In this issue, Likud may accept a partial withdrawal, while Labor is ready to withdraw from some land but not before a referendum," Mdanat said. "In this case Labor extremism is no different from Likud's."

The Labor party coalition has a very narrow majority of 61 seats in 120 Knesset, including five Arab seats.

A University of Yarmouk poll on the Israeli elections and its effects on the peace process has found that 71 percent of those included in the poll favored a victory for the Labor party, while 15 percent favored a Likud victory. Fourteen percent said they were not concerned with the results of the elections. The poll included 1135 participants, 69 percent of them have university degrees.

## Experts say 'oil-for-food' pact does not signal end of UN sanctions

Continued from page 1

plexed about their country's true position towards Iraq. Since the Gulf War, Jordan was able to maintain "special" trading ties with Iraq in spite of the UN sanctions. Jordan imports all of its oil needs from Iraq. "The private sector played a significant role in keeping trading relations between Jordan and Iraq alive," said Adwan.

Tayseer Abd Al Jaber, a former minister and an economic analyst, told *The Star* that there is a good chance for Jordanian commodities to be exported to Iraq. "Since Saudi Arabia's needs from Jordan in terms of commodities are not the same as those of Iraq, the private sector can work to further expand trading ties," he said.

Although Iraq might disperse with Jordan's goods, shifting to Iran, Turkey, Syria and the Gulf, Anani does not think the "strained relationship" between Iraq and Jordan can lead to a political divorce. "I do not think that Iraqi oil will be exported through Syria though there have been some trading activities between them through smuggling which might now be legalized," Anani argued. He added that many countries which based their relations with Jordan on the Kingdom's stand towards Iraq will strive in the future to improve their relations with Iraq.

### JORDAN TODAY

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THE FUTURE OF MONEY

## Five Middle East nations create consortium to fight cancer

By Jim Fuller

WASHINGTON—The ministers of health from five Middle East nations have signed an unprecedented agreement to share expertise in the fight against cancer.

At a May 20 ceremony in Geneva, the health ministers of Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority signed an agreement creating the Middle East Cancer Consortium, an inter-governmental organization aimed at increasing knowledge about cancer. The accord is one of the first regional agreements to be signed in the Middle East.

The signing was witnessed by Donna Shalala, secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Also attending was Dr Richard Klausner, director of the National Cancer Institute, which played a key role in orchestrating the agreement.

Shalala pointed out that every year nearly one million people die of lung cancer and more than 500,000 women lose their lives to breast and cervical cancers around the globe.

The consortium will be funded by contributions from member parties and an annual contribution of \$300,000 for five years. The funds will be aimed at helping universities and cancer centers in the Middle East develop cancer registries, cancer information, dissemination programs, training programs in cancer research, education and patient care.

The consortium will be governed by a ministerial steering committee, made up of the ministers of health and responsible for overall policies, and a board of governors responsible for financial and managerial policies. The board of governors will include representatives appointed by each of the parties and the United States.

USIA

the UN Security Council. The UN has issued a series of resolutions demanding that Iraq comply with international law and cease its collective punishment of the Iraqi people.

The UN has also demanded that Iraq allow international inspectors to monitor its weapons programs and that it provide access to the Iraqi people. The UN has also demanded that Iraq cease its attacks on the Gulf of Persia and that it allow the free flow of international trade through the Persian Gulf.

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## Report on Iraq accuses Security Council of collective punishment

Continued from page 1

Germany and the United Kingdom. The report says that a period of speculation that started with the negotiations with the UN has left people insecure, increasing their plight. High inflation has rendered the Iraqi dinar worthless making living conditions even more difficult, the report adds.

By December 1995, reads the report, one dollar brought ID 3000. The prospect of an oil for food deal has brought the exchange rate to about ID 1200 to the dollar as of the week of May 13, the report says.

Relatively the latest deal will ease the economic strain imposed on Iraq by allowing it to sell \$4 billion worth of oil annually. "In figures, it [the deal] will provide Iraq with less than 20 percent of its humanitarian needs such as food, medicine and badly needed spare parts," explained Saad Hamid representative of the CESR in the Middle East.

A 1995 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report on Iraq estimated Iraq's annual food bill at \$2.7 billion without adding the cost of vitally needed spare parts for water and sewage system as well as supplies for hospitals and surgeries.

But the food crisis for Iraq is not considered as grave as the lack of spare parts, especially for hospitals, a problem that has caused the death of many Iraqis. As a matter of fact, the food rationing system that the Iraqi government has instituted in September 1990 supplies the Iraqi citizen "with 1050-1100 calories per day," said Iraqi Minister of Health Medhat Barakat and was considered "highly effective in reaching the population," according to the FAO report.

"The government is prioritizing the humanitarian need for its people and has maintained the rationing system that provided people with their needs," said Saad Hamid. "Without it Iraq could have faced famine."

US ambassador to the UN, Madeleine Albright, accused the Iraqi regime repeatedly of spending its scarce income on luxury items, weapons parts and on building palaces for Saddam Hussein. But while not defending the Iraqi regime, the report indicates that some of these accusations were unjustified and wrong.

The report estimates Iraq's needs of humanitarian assistance at no less than \$8 billion distributed as follows:

1. FAO and the General Secretary of the UN reports estimate the consumption of food in Iraq in 1991 at \$2.7 billion. If the population increase is to be taken into consideration in addition to the general increase in prices today's estimates would jump to \$3.2 billion.

2. According to a WHO report in 1991 Iraq's consumption of pharmaceuticals was \$360 million. With the deteriorating health situation in Iraq today the need for pharmaceuticals will be around \$700 million.

3. The cost of medical equipment, including spare parts for ambulances, heating, and air conditioning in addition to sterilization material and syringes, cotton, is put at \$350 million.

4. Maintenance of sensitive medical equipment is estimated to cost \$600 million.

5. Sewage and water treatment equipment, according to UNICEF reports will cost \$450 million in addition to another \$250 million for operational cost.

6. The minimum increase in doctors' salaries, which now stand at an average of \$5 per month, to a normal salary is estimated at \$700 million.

7. Rebuilding the education system including repairing desks, windows, heating, supply of books and pencils will cost about \$700 million.

8. The cost of refurbishing special care centers for handicapped, elderly, homeless children and displaced families will cost about \$1.5 billion.

The report says that it is significant that children have suffered disproportionately from the sanctions, although Security Council is bound to respect the right to life as stipulated by the UN Human Rights Committee. The deaths happening in Iraq, due to the sanctions are considered an admissible violation of a very fundamental human right, the right to life, the report says.

For six years, the council has devoted considerable resources for commissions to monitor the implementation of the council's resolutions for weapon programs, establishing borders between Kuwait and Iraq, and for locating Kuwaiti prisoners of war but none was devoted to monitor the impact of the sanctions on basic human rights of the Iraqis, the report says. The council has sought to avoid any legal responsibility for the crisis in Iraq by blaming the Saddam Hussein government. "It [Security Council] is imposing a collective punishment on a population for the political intransigence of its leader," reads the report.

In conclusion, the report calls on the Security Council to consider a number of recommendations and options including the council's recognition of its human rights obligations to the Iraqi people, provide food and medicine to needy population through UN agencies, modify Sanctions Committee procedures for dual use items such as chlorine especially for water treatment, modify sanctions to target government and the military industries, develop an incremental approach to the easing of the sanctions, articulate a legal standards for the application of the sanctions and establish clear requirements for compliance in each sanctions regime.

## Lina Al Nabelsi a martyr for Palestine



THIS week is the 20 anniversary of the death of Lina Nabelsi. She died as a martyr defending Palestinian rights. She was only 17 years old girl who lived in Nablus, the Palestinian town that is known as the "mountain of fire".

On 16 May 1976, Lina led her comrades from the secondary school—Al Aishiyah—to protest against the Israeli occupation. She was targeted and shot at point blank range. She instantly died as three bullets entered her body. Lina's death shocked everybody. The furious town of Nablus and all other Palestinian cities and villages saw the death of Lina and other martyrs as the beginnings of the Intifada.



● His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, met last week with visiting Foreign Minister of Singapore Mr. Sen Jayakumar. Prince Hassan and Mr. Jayakumar discussed ways to bolster and develop trade relations between the two countries. Prince Hassan stressed the need to study and benefit from the economic expertise of Singapore. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdel Karim Al Kabarini, cabinet ministers and Central Bank Governor. During the meeting Jordan discussed the possibility of making use of Singapore's experience in ports management and transferring that experience to the port of Aqaba. The visiting official visited Aqaba port later on and was briefed on the commercial role the port plays in Jordan's economic life.

## Dr Nafe' Al Hassan, an expert in international law 'If the world fails to solve the Palestinian refugee problem, peace will be elusive'

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr Nafe' Al Hassan is an expert in international law concerning refugees and human rights. Head of the PLO planning department he was also a former United Nations official and responsible for the implementation of the UN protection law of refugees in Iraq and Central Asia. At one time he headed the Palestinian section in the Arab League. He talked to *The Star's* Raed Al Abed about the status of Palestinian refugees. Excerpts follow:

How do you see the future of the Palestinian refugees after the PNC decision to repeal clauses in the Palestinian National Charter and the beginning of the final stage negotiations with Israel?

Palestinian refugees are right to feel anxious after the PNC decision because the charter underlined their rights because in the final analysis, the refugees were the ones behind the charter. The PLO itself was created in the diaspora. So the repeal was perceived as an abandonment of Palestinian rights at a time when Israel is offering nothing in return. It is true that the Madrid peace conference was based on UN resolutions 242 and 338, which underlined the need to solve the refugees' problem. But these principles are vanishing step by step because Israel imposes its own agenda. In this sense, Israel is trying to destroy the principles of the peace process.

Israel is refusing to recognize the right of refugees to return in accordance with resolution 194. There is also the problem of Israeli settlements which is also related to the refugees' problem. The settlements are eating up the land that Palestinians are supposed to return to.

Unless there are equal deals, Palestinians should not revoke any article in the charter. American and Israeli demands will never stop. The charter was the strongest paper in Palestinian hands but now after relinquishing the basic rights, Palestinians stand naked.

But amending the charter was part of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement... Yes, it is part of the agreement, but this so-called amendment is harmful to Palestinian rights. On the other side, Israel did not adhere to the agreement. Why should the Palestinians adhere?

Some say that the global imbalance and Arab weakness do not favor the Palestinian position in the final status negotiations. Do you agree?

Even if we lack international backing that would guarantee the restoration of Palestinian rights, we should not surrender. Palestinians know it is impossible to regain every inch of Palestine from the river to the sea, but at least they want to guarantee their sovereignty and independence on territories that were occupied in 1967 war.

It is important to grasp these national rights while keeping an eye on new developments in the region and at the international level. The world is changing and we should be ready to make gains whenever possible.

How do you see the solution to the problem of the Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

The issue of settlements is a major obstacle to the refugee problem. The settlements in the West Bank are not barracks or removable houses. They are industrial and productive cities which are home to the best Israeli experts. They also include the biggest industrial complexes in the Middle East. Who will remove these settlements?

But how does international law treat the issue of Palestinian refugees?

The international law is on the side of Palestinian refugees. UN resolution 194, article 11 of the resolution, clearly states the right of refugees to return or be compensated.

The Israeli recognition of this resolution was a basic condition for its admission as a member of the United Nations. The resolution was confirmed by the UN Security Council. Israel had not opposed this resolution until it was accepted as a member in the UN.

The United States presented several proposals to strike out our refugees right to return. It presented the Johnson proposal in the 1950s. Later it created UNRWA to settle Palestinians in their host countries. But UNRWA has failed in this assignment.

In 1951, there was a setback regarding international obligations towards Palestinian refugees when the International Refugees Convention was ratified in 1951. It excluded Palestinian refugees from international protection, claiming that the Palestinians are taking humanitarian aid from UNRWA which is a UN institution. This was a big mislead.

But don't you think UNRWA is authorized to play a protection role?

The authorization that was given to UNRWA did not include international protection of refugees. At a time when all refugees around the world are



Al Hassan

under the protection of the International Protection Convention and the charter of the Higher Commission of Refugees of 1950, Palestinians are left without that cover.

The international protection articles stressed on the return of refugees to their homeland, or to be settled in the host country if they do not wish to return, or to find another host country.

This is called the durable solution for refugees. Till this solution is made, refugees should be under international protection.

This protection provides assistance to refugees, like protecting them from persecution, providing them with legal assistance, supplying them with travel documents, in addition to humanitarian aid.

UNRWA's mandate does not include that: it is only providing humanitarian aid. However this service is under threat from time to time, especially by donor countries who finance the agency.

Why do you think Palestinian refugees were excluded from the International Protection Convention?

I think for political reasons which concern the ruling super powers. I think it was made this

way to facilitate Israel's control of all of Palestine.

There are about four million Palestinian refugees living out side Palestine. Is it possible to accommodate them all within an area of 27,000 kilometers, where 6.5 million Palestinians and Israelis are already living?

Yes it is possible. There are wide areas in Palestine which could be utilized, like the Negev and the Galilee. There are large lands which Israel does not exploit. These lands are saved to serve Israeli plans by the year 2020, when the Jewish population will increase to 10 million.

The other factor which could help in solving this problem is economic cooperation in the region and the open borders in the area.

What kind of economic cooperation do you envision?

Between Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, but not before the implementation of the right to return or [freewill] compensation for refugees by Israel. And not before a comprehensive peace.

As a Palestinian refugee, if you return to Palestine, do you accept to hold an Israeli passport?

The most important thing is to be on my homeland. The identity issue will be solved later. It is impossible to solve all of our problems together. Now the most important is our return to our lands.

What if Israel continues to ignore Palestinians' right to return?

If the world fails to solve the Palestinian refugees problem, peace will be elusive. Refugees will not forget their rights. As I said they created the Palestinian national movement and the PLO, and they are those who practiced resistance against Israel for the past decades. They will continue their struggle for their rights from generation to generation till their voice is heard.

## Pelletreau reiterates US commitment to support Jordan

PROMOTING COMPREHENSIVE peace requires the United States to stand beside Arab states as well as Israel as they take risks for peace, Robert Pelletreau, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, said last week.

"President Clinton committed the United States to support Jordan when King Hussein defied the predictions of many observers and took bold steps toward peace without waiting for others in the region," he told participants in the CENTCOM Annual Southwest Asia Symposium in Tampa, Florida.

"We worked quietly with Israel and Jordan for more than a year leading up to the signing of their peace treaty in 1994 to identify potential areas of economic cooperation, many of which are now being pursued," Pelletreau said. "And with the support of Congress, we have relieved Jordan of its bilateral debt to the US and undertaken to help Jordan meet its legitimate defense requirements through the provision of a squadron of F-16s."

Pelletreau added that the US is seeing evidence of the goodwill and cooperation engendered by Jordan's decision for peace. "Jordan and Israel are moving toward a warm peace on many levels," he said.

He added that "Israeli and Jordanian military officers have hosted one another. They have flown a joint humanitarian aid mission to Bosnia and have worked together to defuse landmines along their common border. For our part, we applaud King Hussein's clear moves away from the dictatorial regime in Baghdad and to rebuild Jordan's traditional relations with the GCC, Jordan's vigorous enforcement of UN sanctions, and its decision to host the temporary deployment of the Airpower Expeditionary Force. This force is providing additional land-based air forces to augment regional deterrence while affording Jordan and the US Air Force increased joint training."

Pelletreau said that securing a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between Israel and its neighbors remains a cornerstone of US foreign policy.

"We see the economic underpinnings of peace agreements as vital to their success," Pelletreau continued. "In addition to our bilateral efforts, we have put a lot of energy into the economic summit process, which will convene for the third time this coming Fall in Cairo. The two previous regional economic summits in Casablanca and Amman were instrumental in galvanizing regional economic cooperation and showcasing new commercial opportunities opened up by the peace process."

Pelletreau concluded that the United States' ability to meet the "daunting challenges" it faces in the Middle East region "depends in large measure on how well our warriors and diplomats work together. When we cooperate, we are a powerful force for stability and peace. If we do not, we are all the losers."



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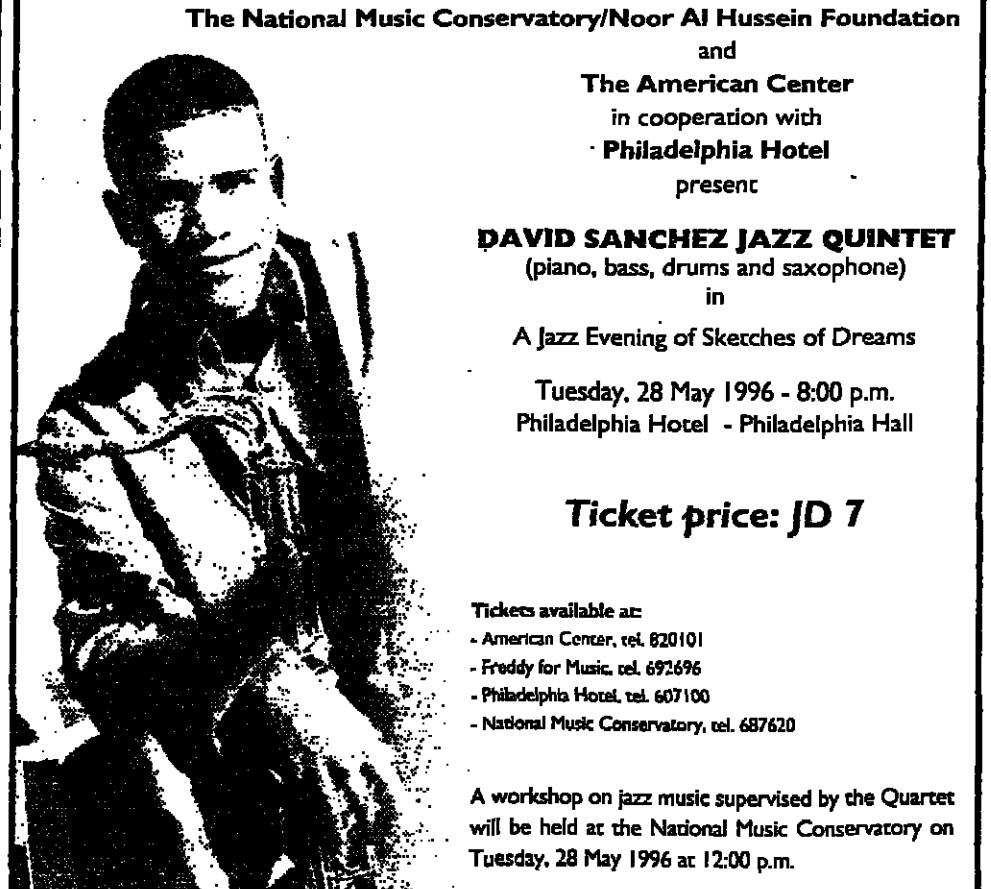
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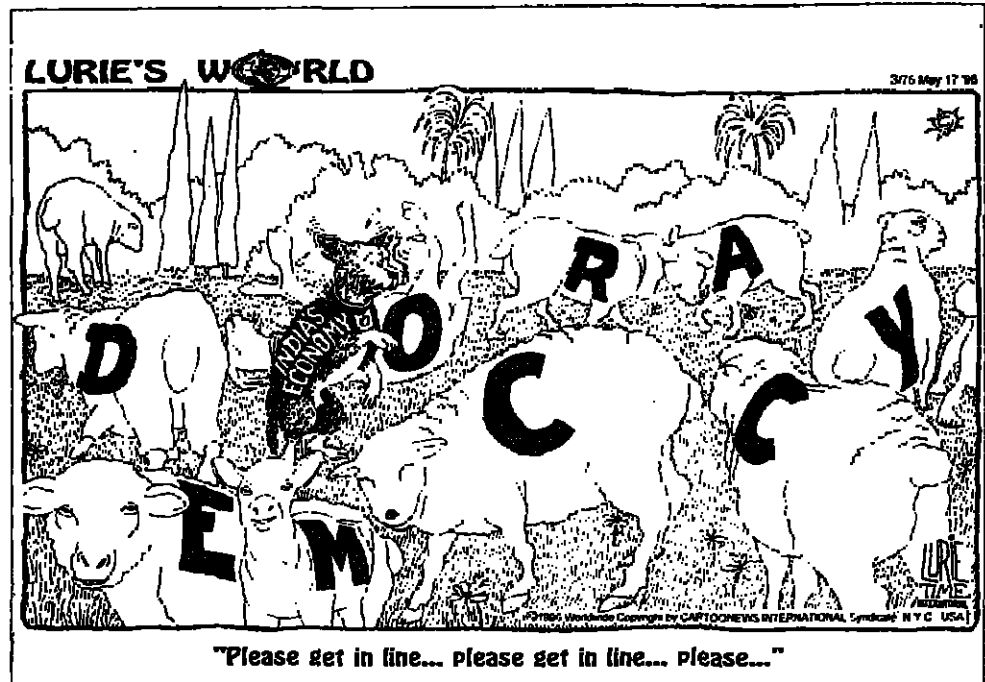
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"Please get in line... please get in line... please..."

## Our Say...

### An Arab stand on Iraq

THIS WEEK'S acceptance by Iraq of an "oil-for-food" offer is the first positive development in relations between Iraq and the UN since the Security Council imposed an unprecedented sanctions regime against Baghdad.

While the deal will allow Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months in order to pay for humanitarian needs such as food and medicine, we should not consider the plight of the Iraqi people as a closed matter. Independent studies and reports, including those of UN agencies, confirm that Iraq's economic and social conditions have deteriorated to a dire state. With only 60 percent of the oil revenues available for food and medicine purchases, meeting the needs of the Iraqi people is still beyond reach for the Iraqi government. In addition, the Security Council has put too many conditions on the Iraqi government that the credibility and durability of the agreement will remain in doubt for some time.

The Security Council must recognize that its responsibility in Iraq goes beyond guaranteeing the dismantling of weapons of mass destruction and paying the bill of UN monitors there. The fact that the sanctions are the main cause of starvation, malnutrition and a general deterioration in public health standards in Iraq today puts the Security Council before moral and legal dilemmas. It now stands responsible for maintaining a policy of collective punishment against the population of Iraq which has resulted in thousands of deaths, especially among children, and the unending suffering for the whole population.

It is now clear that interim arrangements, such as the latest deal, will not end such suffering. The Security Council, as a body, must muster the moral strength to seriously review the consequences of the six-year-old sanctions on the Iraqi population who cannot be punished for the political blunders of their government.

Moreover, the Security Council must take into consideration the numerous positive signs that the Baghdad government has presented throughout the period following the Gulf War in meeting the requirements of the UN resolutions. It is inconceivable that the severity of the sanctions should remain the same when the price of maintaining it, in human terms, is so outrageous and when the final goal of the UN and its organs should be to rehabilitate Iraq into joining the world community.

This is why the Arab world has a special responsibility to bring fresh pressure on the United States and Britain, the only two countries opposed to any easing up in the sanctions, and the rest of the Security Council members. But the irony is that even the Arabs are still divided over what to do with Iraq and the regime of Saddam Hussein. The moral obligation is not exclusive to the UN and the Security Council only, but rests with the Arab and Muslim worlds as well.

Jordan, Egypt and the Palestine National Authority, whose leaders met in Cairo recently to announce that they are behind efforts to revive pan-Arab coordination on national issues, bear special responsibility at this sensitive stage. Taking a firm stand on Iraq could usher the regaining of conscience to the Arab order. That's why the tripartite Amman meeting must adopt that stand. ■

● **Suspected Hamas activist Hassan Salameh who was captured by the Israeli army in Hebron on Saturday. Israel says Salameh masterminded three suicide attacks against Israel in Jerusalem and Ashkelon. It says the 25-year-old Palestinian from Khan Younis in Gaza is the number two fugitive on their wanted list. Salameh was shot at an Israeli checkpoint when he refused to stop, but he ran away and was later captured at Alia Hospital in Hebron. He was later moved to an Israeli hospital under heavy security.**



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# Dole's Senate retirement causes a stir in US politics

By Carrie Nelle Moye  
Star US correspondent

WHOA! PERHAPS that should more appropriately be expressed, "Stop the presses!" for that indeed is what happened. When former US Senate Majority Leader and GOP Presidential Wannabe Bob Dole announced morning, 15 May, he was resigning from the senate, the world stopped. For 30 seconds. Shades of Ross Perot withdrawing from the 1991 elections when the going got rough. Naturally there is a difference. Perot totally withdrew from the race.

Dole resigned from the law-making body of which he had been a member—a leader—for 35 years to devote himself full time to his campaign for the presidency. Most pundits believe this was clever.

Clever politically, yes. But what does it say about his number one commitment, that of carrying out his duties as Majority Leader of the Senate? For some time now Dole has been in the primary position in

the senate that was supposed to make all the wonderful changes that would turn life around in America. His counterpart in the House, former-wonder-boy-turned-liability Newt Gingrich had been the primary person responsible for bringing in a fresh load of rebels, native to the ways of legislative machinations. Sometimes naive is refreshing for often one so described does not understand the meaning of the word "no," often resulting in great things being accomplished.

Unfortunately, in politics, no matter the intention, there is always impenetrable experience and money behind the old guard and, except in rare cases, nothing of significance can be achieved without compromise. Former President Carter learned this the hard way. Now so has the "Freshmen Class" of Republicans in the US House. Although Gingrich was their mentor and remains their leader, nevertheless, the Senate yields more prestige, and with fewer votes

remains more powerful. Bob Dole had watched the promising Republican era of the early 1990s turn into a fiasco of infighting, refusal to compromise, and otherwise a display of such disarray that nearly all major polls now show the present Congress to be one of the most unpopular ever.

This, coupled with his own most recent actions, has placed Clinton so high in the cut-throat seat that he has appeared to be untouchable. Dole had to do something if he had a prayer of becoming President.

Politically, perhaps he did the one thing that could give him a chance of turning his lifelong dream of becoming the nation's chief executive into reality. But do the ends, if achieved, justify the means? Couldn't Dole have been more helpful to our nation, even more heroic, had he remained in his position and come forth with leadership that could have reined in the mavericks, with the help of Gingrich pulled his troops together and presented a force for positive action?

Much like a family, there may be numerous squabbles, but when faced by the "enemy without," members fall in behind their leader for the good of the whole, the entire blood-is-thicker-than-water routine.

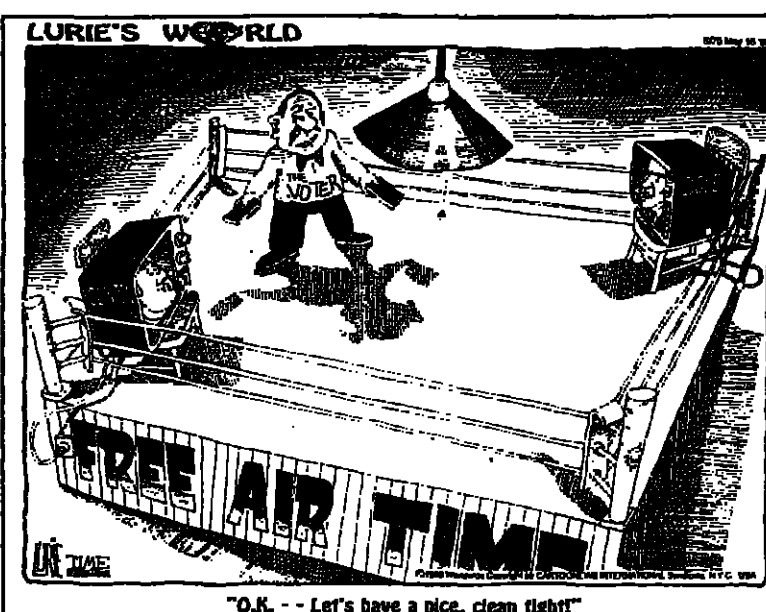
Yet Dole was unable to do this. Rather than uniting his forces and presenting at least a quasi-strong front to fight for the "Republican ideals," he felt it was politically expedient to dis-

associate himself from the increasingly unpopular body and charge full speed into the presidential race. Virtually all agree this will help his chances, but what does it say of his dedication to the job he was elected to do? It says he quit. He removed himself from the kitchen when the fire was too hot. Indeed, he abandoned his duties.

It would be different if one and all could point to Dole and declare he had accomplished his goals as the Senate Majority Leader: he had implemented the "Republican Revolution," for better or worse. Then he could resign with a "I achieved this goal now I shall head for my other." But he did not do this. He was unable even to come to terms with his Lower House counterpart. He cut and ran.

I have come to rather like Bob Dole as a man. Most certainly he has mellowed (if not, he is a fine actor, but I suspect it has more to do with the influence of his extraordinary wife, Elizabeth), and one always must respect what he did for his country during World War II. But his true colors underneath whatever mellowing and experienced leadership he has attained. Being a politician is his be-all and end-all. His desire to become President of the United States outweighs his desire to lead his former colleagues to accomplish goals that well might have been done had he remained in his position; now that would have gleamed votes.

Should he be successful in being elected President—and that is a most distant "should"—will it be to lead the nation or will it be to fulfill a personal desire to be the most powerful man in the world? ■



## Carl Sagan

# Mr science puts us all on notice

By Bettjane Levine  
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

What is a star? If you can't answer that one, try why is the sky blue? If nothing comes to mind, then you're like 95 percent of Americans, Carl Sagan says. You have no replies to the simplest science questions your children ask. And you won't try to help them find any.

Such lack of interest on the part of so many, the eminent scientist says, could signal the beginning of the end for our country. Or perhaps even our planet.

But not to worry, Sagan may be one of the world's most optimistic individuals, a man who has spent his life exploring mysteries of the universe, who knows that even "the slightest alteration of course" may avert a catastrophe.

The course change he proposes in his new book, *The Demon-Haunted World* (Random House), could be fun for those who don't know that, in Sagan's words, "The stars are suns, very far away."

Knowing the right answers is not essential to science, Sagan explains. The crucial element is respect for the questions.

Sagan's book, his 22nd, is a rumination on America's false perception that science is a subject too difficult for ordinary people to understand.

And it is an indictment of the pseudo-science we have embraced instead. From crop circles and alien abductions to astrologers, channelers and psychics, the astronomer/biologist/physicist says we support whole industries based on crackpot notions that pretend to be science.

Have you seen the giant eggplant that looks exactly like Richard Nixon?

Sagan has, and points out that thousands of people would probably be willing to believe that some Force From Beyond was trying to tell us something by creating the ski-nosed purple veggie.

"We believe just about anything that caters to our longing for supernatural powers," he says.

The astronomy professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author says the consequence of not learning the scientific method—which includes healthy skepticism

that leads to tough, pertinent questions and a demand for evidence before we commit to belief—leads us "into serious danger" as a nation and makes us gullible for "the next political or religious charlatans who saunter along."

Things have obviously slid downhill since 1980, when Sagan told *The New York Times*, "The public is a lot brighter and more interested in science than they're given credit for."

What has happened in the interim?

"We have become a nation of scientific illiterates," Sagan, 61, complains in a phone conversation from Seattle (USA), where he is being treated for what he calls "a setback" in his fight against myelodysplasia, a rare bone marrow disease that left him with a "grave deficiency of red cells, white cells and platelets—all of which one needs to stay alive."

Luckily, his only sibling, a sister, was a perfect match and Sagan had a bone marrow transplant about a year ago.

He is too weak to travel on the usual book promotion tour. He sounds almost too weak to talk. But the world-famous Sagan style—a blend of erudition, irony and wonder—is still evident over the phone.

His book, an overview of pseudo-science versus real science through the ages, argues that real science is far more fascinating, scary and hopeful than anything the most far-fetched con artist or fiction

writer might conjure.

Sagan says, for example, that the odds seem to be "roughly one chance in a thousand" that in the next century Earth will be destroyed by an asteroid. It was just such an accident, millions of years ago, that killed the dinosaurs and 75 percent of all species on Earth, he reminds his caller.

If just a piece of the asteroid, about one mile across, hits Earth, it "would put in peril the global civilization," Sagan says.

Should we be concerned?

Of course, he says. There is much we can do to predict the disaster by studying all objects in the vicinity of Earth that can do us damage. And then by taking steps to deflect that object, or to make alternative arrangements for life elsewhere. That work should be going on now.

But, as Sagan acerbically notes, we are living in such an anti-science era "that the Republican government just eliminated its own office of technology assessment, the office that gives bipartisan advice on crucial issues of science that legislators must know about in order to make important decisions. The (government) decision, in essence, that it doesn't need to know about science and technology in order to make decisions about it."

The asteroid scenario is the most frightening of dozens of consequences the author predicts might occur if we don't

pursue science as individuals and as nations.

There is global thermonuclear war. "When we understand the consequences of nuclear war, we are much more restrained in our willingness to consider it," Sagan says. "It is by no means clear that the leaders of nuclear armed states have a keen appreciation of the realities of nuclear war."

Global warming: The planet is in peril if "we foolishly continue to burn coal, oil and natural gas, and do other things that warm the Earth. We ought to use fossil fuels much more efficiently. Eighty miles to the gallon in cars, for example, rather than 20 mpg. And we should vigorously pursue alternatives to the burning of fossil fuels."

In general, Sagan says, if our nation does not appreciate the potential of science for good and for evil, we may lose our supremacy "in the usual Darwinian natural selection of nations, to those who do."

"My life experience has shown that almost every child is a scientist in first grade," Sagan says. "Kids are tailor-made for science. They ask tough questions, have insatiable curiosity and an intact sense of wonder. But all of that is gone by 12th grade. Something awful has happened. They've decided science is not for them."

What happens, he says, is that parents are embarrassed to say "I don't know," so they subtly make fun of question ■

## Water, terrorism, and security,

VARIOUS QUARTERS, locally, and regionally have widely expressed their opposition and fears towards the emerging cooperation between Turkey and Israel, reinforcing the notion that both have more in common and objectives to defend, than the rest of the regional countries.

So instead of identifying areas of threat and root causes of violence and instability, we tend to attack our own interests in the name of Arabism, though Arabism is the biggest loser of those issues that threaten our region. Economic deprivation, water and food security, are not factors that threaten Israel alone.

Countries which host and support terrorists are not a danger to only Turkey and Israel, but also to all of us who remain under the threats of terrorism. The factors of instability that can be considered as the root causes of violence in our region, cannot be taken in isolation of the countries that promote them.

However, we cannot deny the fact that allowances have been granted to certain countries in the name of political expediency, therefore, this attitude which is promoted at times by the world powers, is the main reason behind the fact that countries in our world are tripping over each other, to reach bilateral agreements to safeguard and guarantee their mutual interests.

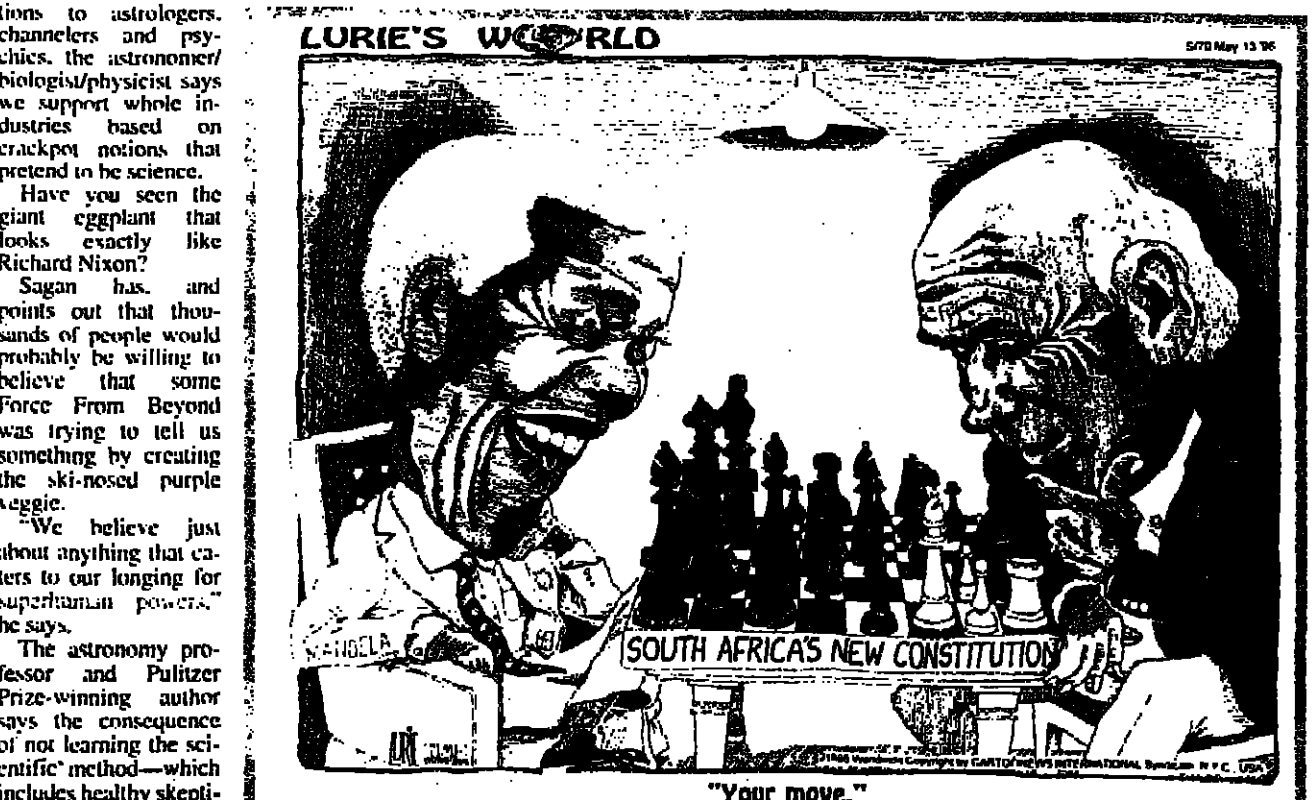
Jordan often advocated a policy of comprehensive peace. A regional approach to solving the outstanding problems between neighbors in our region is of paramount importance and to have our regional approach operating in an inclusive, rather than an exclusive manner. There are mavericks in our world who are only interested in being included in the regional plans to serve their own narrow interests and promote their obstructive policies.

Inter-regional politics in the context of the Middle East is still being viewed internationally as a zero sum game, in which one neighbor, or a group of neighbors tend to lose out when others gain an advantage. So long as our attitude conforms to, and justifies this understanding, we can only expect an international outlook that is based on this assumption. In reality there will always be losers as well as winners depending on the swing of the international pendulum. It is in our interest to transform the zero sum approach into an understanding of equal sum behavior, for the problems of the country are perhaps the same as those of its neighbors.

The most recent example of the escalation of the war of words between Syria and Turkey over the water issue on the one hand, and PKK terrorism on the other, is applicable to all of us who are potentially under the threat of terrorism, as well as water shortage. So if the issue is left on a bilateral level it is more likely to flare up into an armed conflict rather than finding an acceptable solution to both countries.

A regional norm of behavior compatible with the advent of the 21st century is still lacking in our hearts and minds. What makes matters worse, is the fact that this norm is neither hypothetical, nor only a moral issue. It is rather a practical code based on the absolute necessity of our interdependence, and the recognition of the same threats that are choosing us, with an eye on the promoters of instability.

If this does not happen, it means we hardly recognize our freedom and the independence of our decision. ■



## Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene

Business scene



Business  
scene

**The Jordan-Kuwait Co** For Agricultural and Food Products is to decrease its paid up capital to JD 2.4 million. This follows company losses of 576,000 in 1995. The company started out with a capital of JD 3 million.

**Free-trade zones** in the country yielded JD 4.7 million in 1995, that is a 12% increase over 1994. Records show that 13 new investors from business and industry, in addition to 88 investors in the Auto Fairs sector were registered in 1995.

**Earnings of the General Union of Voluntary Societies** amounted to JD 5,622,520 in 1995, including JD 700 from subscription, JD 196,762 from bank returns, JD 633 from donations, JD 2922 from different sources, JD 5,320,149 from lotteries, and JD 5791 from the college of organic treatment.

**Jordan's exports** of fresh fruits and vegetables during April weighed 18,600 tons worth JD 5.15 million. The exports went to Arab countries.

**Sales of the Arab Aluminium Industry (ARAL)** amounted to JD 16.6 million in 1995. This is about 3% decrease on 1994. However, ARAL approved the appropriation of 30% of the company's JD 6 million capital among the shareholders. The company's net profits amounted to JD 3.03 million.

**The Jordan Valley Authority** has completed its project for its northern port at a cost of JD 30 million. The project aims to irrigate 80,000 dunams and to supply of 20 million cubic meters annually.

**The Japanese government** is to offer Jordan a grant of 1.15 million yens to support of the project of collecting solid waste in the rural areas around the country.

**Al Awqaf Ministry** is launching the largest complex construction in the Amman city center at a cost of JD 15 million. To be built on a five dunum plot of land, the project includes a trade center, car parking, modern offices, a hotel, a restaurant, snacks, and a mosque.

Foreign  
Exchange

Wednesday, 15 MAY

	Buy JD	Sell JD
	0.7080	0.7100
	1.0704	1.0758
	0.4614	0.4637
	0.5618	0.5646
	0.1363	0.1370
	0.6617	0.6650
	0.4129	0.4150
	0.0456	0.0458

## Iraq accepts UN oil-for-food plan

By John M. Goshko  
LA Times Washington Post  
News Service

**UNITED NATIONS**—After months of resistance, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's government Monday bowed to the strict terms demanded by the United Nations and accepted a UN oil-for-food plan intended to ease the suffering imposed on the Iraqi people by six years of UN sanctions.

UN and Iraqi negotiators capped four months of negotiation by signing an accord that will permit Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months to generate funds for the purchase of food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies. The Security Council has the option to renew the agreement each six months.

In return, Iraq must accept stringent UN monitoring to ensure that the money is not used to buy weapons, luxury goods or other items of benefit to Saddam's regime.

The United States, which has sought to oust Saddam from power ever since the 1991 Gulf War, took the lead in insisting that the conditions imposed on Iraq, and the provisions for seeing that they are enforced, be tough and unambiguous. In particular, the Uni-

ed States and its allies insisted successfully on UN supervision of the banking arrangements for oil sales, minute UN scrutiny of how humanitarian supplies are to be distributed, UN control over delivery of aid to the breakaway Kurds in northern Iraq and widespread discretionary power for UN monitors.

News of the agreement caused a sudden spike in oil prices Monday, with the cost of crude oil for June delivery jumping \$1.84 to \$22.78 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. But many oil traders said they believed that the rise was an aberration caused by profit taking and uncertainty over the accord's long-term effects.

Once Iraqi sales actually begin, they are expected to pump about 700,000 barrels of crude oil a day into world markets. That would be far below Iraq's former daily exports of 3 million barrels, but oil experts said that even a limited return of Iraqi oil to the market should tend to reduce gasoline prices, which have been rising worldwide throughout the spring. The experts cautioned, though, that it is too early to predict accurately how much prices are likely to go down.

In London, OPEC Secretary General Rilwanu Lukman said

the group will "do something" to soften the impact of a possible return of Iraqi oil exports.

Lukman said it was too early to dismiss the possibility of an emergency OPEC session to discuss how it would deal with Iraq, but OPEC delegates said earlier there would not be one, given the proximity of a scheduled 5 June ministerial session.

OPEC delegates from influential Middle East member states have repeatedly said their countries would not cut production if Iraqi oil returned to the market as long as some OPEC members produced above their quotas.

Except for some minor, clandestine transactions, it would be Iraq's first foray into the international oil market since August 1990, when the UN Security Council imposed sanctions in reprisal for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The sanctions continued in force following Iraq's 1991 expulsion from Kuwait by the US-led Desert Storm military operation, and isolation from the world economy has reduced Iraq to a primitive state of vasty inadequate food supplies, widespread illness and other hardships.

Since 1991, the Security Council several times offered Iraq partial relief from the

sanctions. But, until now, its terms always were rejected by Baghdad as a violation of its sovereignty. That Iraq now has accepted essentially the same conditions it previously spurned is widely regarded by diplomats here as a sign that Iraq's 20 million people are growing restive under the burden of unrelieved sanctions.

The talks leading up to Monday's agreement began 7 February and continued through 50 meetings led by Hans Corell, the UN legal counsel, and Iraqi special envoy Abdul Amir Anbari, with the aim of working out a memorandum of understanding for implementing the UN offer.

Diplomatic sources said that throughout the talks, the Iraqis pressed for broadly general language that would have given Baghdad considerable latitude in carrying out an agreement and possibly serving as a wedge to get around the sanctions, which remain in place.

However, the Iraqi strategy was opposed vigorously by the United States and Britain, both permanent Security Council members that insisted on every detail being spelled out. At one point, US and British objections forced Corell and Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to scrap large amounts of tentatively agreed

language and led Anbari to complain bitterly that the United States and Britain were trying to "sabotage" an agreement.

By last week, though, the Iraqi negotiating team had given sufficient ground for Washington and London to signal that they were satisfied with the language tentatively on the table. Monday morning, the green-light came from Baghdad to accept the accord, and Anbari and Corell signed the memorandum. Iraq now must produce a detailed scheme for distributing the aid, and the accord will go into effect one day after Boutros-Ghali informs the Security Council that it is satisfactory. UN sources said that under a best-case scenario, the agreement might be ready for implementation sometime in July.

Sharp criticism of the agreement came from retiring Senate Majority Leader Robert H. Dole, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee. He charged that the Clinton administration had given Saddam "a source of revenue which will reduce Iraqi domestic discontent with his reign of terror."

Dole's criticism was rejected by US administration officials who said that the accord has adequate safeguards against abuse. They said the agreement calls for Boutros-Ghali rather than Iraq to choose the bank in which an escrow account will be established to receive Iraqi oil revenues and pay for purchases of humanitarian supplies.

US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said it was a great day for both the Iraqi People and the United Nations—which persuaded Iraq to allow it control over distribution, especially to the rebellious Kurdish provinces.

The US Ambassador made special note, however, that the deal is not tantamount to a lifting of sanctions: "We have made sure that the people of Iraq are assured of the proper provisions but at the same time the very tight sanctions regime remains in place. So this is an exception for the people of Iraq and Business as usual for the sanctions regime."

"We have made sure that the people of Iraq are assured of the proper provisions but at the same time the very tight sanctions regime remains in place. So this is an exception for the people of Iraq and Business as usual for the sanctions regime."

"We have made sure that the people of Iraq are assured of the proper provisions but at the same time the very tight sanctions regime remains in place. So this is an exception for the people of Iraq and Business as usual for the sanctions regime."

## Combating illiteracy through development

By Omar Al Haj Eid  
Special to The Star

**WHILE ILLITERACY** in Jordan is decreasing, it remains a thorn that needs to be tackled. Recent figures of the 1994 Population Census released put illiteracy at 14.9%. Figures show that female illiteracy dropped from 48.2% in 1979 to 20.6%, meanwhile male illiteracy dropped from 18.9% to 9.8%.

What is interesting is that despite the overall decrease, illiteracy remains high in certain geographical areas such as Ma'an, Kerak, Tafila and Mafrqa. In some cases it may reach as high as 80%.

Abd Al Rahim Suhaimat, head of the adult literacy learning in the Ministry of Education attributes illiteracy to a number of factors: environmental, social and economic. He said research shows that illiteracy is closely related to broken-up families, death of one parent and divorce. Poverty and poor health, and the harsh treatment at schools, coupled with the lack of attainment may lead to

illiteracy, Suhaimat said. In the case of rural areas for instance, moving around from one place to another in search of water and grass in the cases of the Badia, may contribute to the aggravation of illiteracy.

As a result, the ministry has taken preventive measures to try and rectify the situation. It is holding more counseling, and seeking to increase greater awareness about the necessity of remaining in school.

In this regard, the ministry cooperates with other international organizations to alleviate illiteracy among those at the age of 15 and above. The ministry adopted a remedy method by recruiting qualified literacy instructors and establishing 571 literacy centers distributed throughout the country, Suhaimat said.

Studies conducted by the Queen Alia Fund and the Ministry of Education indicate an increase in illiteracy in some areas, and especially among women.

The Director of the Queen Alia Fund, Mr Awni Bashir, told *The Star* that the

Fund has set up literacy centers in such places as Ma'an. In 1994 14 classes were held in 13 centers. Bashir added the Queen Alia Fund provides participants with regular rations of wheat, meat, cheese, tea and sugar as incentives for women to complete literacy programs and vocational training courses.

The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) is also keen to eradicate illiteracy and what they call "occupational illiteracy." Butina Al Khateeb, head of Population Training Programs at NHF says that the foundation currently operates women literacy classes in 13 remote villages. It also provides vocational training for women with low-income.

These are designed to supplement their socio-economic needs, Al Khateeb added. The foundation built community centers to offer a range of cultural, educational and social development services which, of course, act as effective means to prevent a relapse into illiteracy, Al Khateeb continued.

## Japanese economy riding high despite transitional restructuring

By Raed Al Abed  
Star Staff Writer

**TOKYO**—After recovering from the post-war inflation, Japan enjoyed prolonged prosperity with growth rates averaging more than 10% in the decade after 1955. Japan has achieved remarkable economic progress enabling it to occupy a renowned position in the world.

In economic size, Japan is second to the US but in terms of per capita income, it is far larger than the US, making it the number one economy in the world.

How could Japan achieve such economic growth?

"The high saving rate that Japan enjoys is the first factor," explained Mr Hisao Kanamori, president of the Japan Center for Economic Research. This helped in capital formation, he added.

Japan is different from other Asian countries who, despite their economic development, are, mostly, dependent on capital fusion from foreign assets. This is unlike Japan which depends on its own savings to finance high economic development, he added.

The strong relations between labor and management is another important factor. The rights of the labor-force are guaranteed through the close relation between the

unions and management. "Japanese workers and employees maintain some of the best traditions like cooperation with management to prevent many industrial disputes from taking place," said Mr Kanamori. "Such relations enhance productivity and introduces and innovates new technologies."

The country lacks natural resources for its industry and imports most of its raw materials, like oil, iron and coal.

Hit by the first oil crisis in 1973 when the economy was highly dependent on oil, Japan recorded negative growth rates in 1974. This crisis forced Japan to embark on industrial restructuring. It started with reducing its large aluminum industry which requires huge energy for smelting. There is now one aluminum factory.

On the other hand, Japan developed its electronic industry which does not consume much energy.

However, economic growth continued till 1974; it stabilized thereafter at 5%.

But the growth rate decreased in 1992 to 0.4%, 0.2% in 1993, 0.5% in 1994, and 0.9% in 1995. These low growth rates have not disenchanted experts who believe it is only short-term. "It is a temporary phenomenon," said Kanamori. "Till 1991 there were lots of investments but there are now less." Over years, land prices

have shot up but they are coming down, he added. Economic experts believe that the low growth trend is almost over and they expect an upturn very shortly.

"Even if economic growth is low, I do not think the economic situation is dangerous," Kanamori added.

Because of increase in consumer productivity, there is no fear from inflation as there is in other Western countries.

The unemployment rate is only 3.2%, while the rate in the US is 5% and Europe 10%. Statistics show that Japan has a surplus of \$100 billion. "We do not suffer like other countries from such economic problems as deficit in the account balance," he added.

After the last Gulf War, the dependence on oil became even more challenging. A phase of continuing restructuring is still on the agenda.

Japan is seeking to reduce further some of its traditional industries while increasing its computer industry, information, and telecommunications. "Japan is now in a transitional period, that causes us some problems," Kanamori said.

Until the 1970s, the major trading partner was the US. The size of trade between the two countries reached about 40%. However, Japan's trading partners today are increasingly from the markets of South



Management-labor relations in Japan are unique and must be seen as an example to the world

Asia. "Japanese companies are entering the South Asian markets. Several are setting up joint ventures there," said Kanamori.

After being the largest exporter of electronics and cars, Japan is nowadays importing TV sets from these Asian markets. TV sets are produced much cheaper in these countries, as the labor cost in Japan is even higher than that of the US and Europe.

Many Japanese companies are also setting up plants in the US to produce cars which Japan imports them again. I believe that trade relations between Japan and the US are more stable than before with little friction, Kanamori said.

"Because the yen have appreciated against the dollar, Japanese products lost some of their export competitiveness."

The other trade issue between Japan and the US, that of semi-conductors, was recently ironed out.

The reason behind the high prices in Japan is the movement of the exchange rate in 1980. The yen/dollar exchange rate was 217 and kept appreciating. In 1995 it was 96 yen.

"When the yen appreciates, in the eyes of visiting foreigners, prices in Japan seem so high, but for Japanese, the prices overseas are so cheap," Kanamori said.

## MARKET WATCH 19-21 MAY

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<p>↑ None</p> <p>↓ None</p>	<p>↑ International Trade 5.26 Holly Land Insurance 5.05 Jordan Sulpho Chemical 5.05</p> <p>↓ JIMCO 5.26 Jordan Gulf Bank 4.85 Real Estate Investment 3.16</p>	<p>↑ Amman Investment Bank 3.88 Real Estate Investment 3.43 JIMCO 3.56</p> <p>↓ Housing Bank 4.43 Jordan Int'l Trade Center 2.17 United Land Development 1.85</p>	<p>↑ Arab Financial Investment 5.19 Arab Plaza Center 5.07 General Trade &amp; Storage 4.69</p> <p>↓ Wool Manufacturing 5.03 Arab Aluminum Industry 4.92 Middle East Bank 4.50</p>
General Price Pointer	147,680	147,540	147,360
Trade Volume	729136	1158365	1419371
Stock Volume	677737	947729	1145121
Highest Traded Stocks			
<p>↑ Livestock &amp; Poultry 188.187</p> <p>↑ Arab Bank 140.120</p> <p>↑ Cement Factory 216.427</p>			

All data provided by ACCESS Tel: 646868 Fax: 646949

## Jordan-Gulf Bank realizes JD 3.4 million profits

**THE JORDAN-GULF Bank** (JGB) realized a net profit of JD 3.4 million in 1995. This is an increase of JD 957,500 over 1994. The annual meeting approved the recommended to give 7% of bank's profit. The Jordan-Gulf Bank has a paid up capital of JD 20 million.

In its third year of operation, the bank is determined to accelerate its advance, especially in its working practices and promotion of its staff.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors Mr Zuhair Awartani said assets and liabilities have increased from JD 130,375,739 in 1994 to JD 171,500,027 in 1995. He added that the JGB deposits in other banks have also grown from JD 39.6 million to JD 42,221,290, while its investments in stocks increased by 39.7% (from JD 5,730,570 to JD 8,005,983, of which value about JD 1,433,420 were invested in newly established

companies. Awartani pointed out that the bank's portfolio of direct securities has increased from JD 70,365,625 in 1994 to JD 105,033,919 in 1995.

The JGB's fixed assets grew from JD 3,264,449 in 1994 to JD 4,000,121 in 1995; about JD 400,000 was spent on the computer system and the setting up of new branches of the bank.

The value of lands and real estate, which were appropriated by the JGB in return for loans, increased from JD 4,723,875 to JD 5,367,679.

Mr Awartani also noted that the customers' deposits have increased from JD 100,313,914 in 1994 to JD 133,580,521 in 1995, whereas the customers' monetary securities grew from JD 11,488,592 to JD 16,989,241.

As for the deposits of the other banks in the JGB, Awartani said they decreased by about JD 1 million, while other liabilities increased from JD 3,728,944 in 1994 to JD 4,990,927 in 1995, and that the total contra accounts at the bank increased from JD 27,425,681 to JD 37,652,933.



Awartani pointed that the interest and commission receipts grew from JD 8,167,175 in 1994 to JD 14,521,116 in 1995, while payable interests increased from JD 4,738,392 to JD 7,843,439 and thus accrued an increase of JD 3,348, 894 in the net paid interest and commission.



# Palestine Post

## Hamas stops, Hamas resumes!

Could it be that Hamas is splitting at the seams or is it a figment of people's imagination. The problem started when the spokesman of Hamas, Dr Mahmood Al Zahar issued a statement saying that the organization called on its military wing to cease military operations against Israel till after her elections on 29 May. This was hotly denied and produced a swift response from the leadership of Hamas. Dr Al Zahar was promptly fired from his post.

The Hamas representative in Amman Mr Ibrahim Ghoshe, left to the scene, and disavowed the statement made by Dr Zahar. Mr Ghoshe said that Hamas will not stop attacks against Israel. He said the group will continue its struggle against Israel and is in no way related to any political considerations. He said that Hamas does not care about the outcome of the elections since Labor and Likud are the same.

Is the incident a storm in a tea cup or is it something more than that. Could it be argued that Al Zahar's statements represents a growing rift in the Hamas rank and file. After all, he did say that Hamas wanted to cease the military activity so as not to play in the hands of the Israeli right and help it win the next election, a claim made by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and PNA chairman Yasser Arafat.

Ghoshe and the Hamas leadership realized how damaging Al Zahar's statement could be. He went as far as to distance the latter as much as possible from Hamas. He said that Al Zahar ceased representing Hamas since four years ago, and that it was he, Mr Ghoshe that is the sole representative of Hamas and has been so for the last six years.

## Rifai assuring but...

Jitters in Jordan about the outcome of the Israeli elections, may have no basis. After all, Amman has very good relations with Tel Aviv. Furthermore, our government has very good relations with all side of the political spectrum. Still, our ambassador in Tel Aviv, Mr Omar Al Rifai felt it necessary to meet the leader of Likud, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu and stress the necessity for a comprehensive peace in the region. During the meeting Mr Rifai said the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty was signed between two countries and in no way will it be affected by the outcome of elections.

But other observers believe that this is not the whole issue. What is at stake now, is not whether Labor or Likud form the next government, but how to mend fences. The relations between Jordan and Israel have become frosty since Israel's two-week attack on Lebanon. A cold peace has come to characterize relations, with Jordan making it a point of not meeting Israeli leaders. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres was due to come to Jordan but the visit was postponed in the last minute.

Indeed Peres is said to be so worried that he is holding consultations with his top aids to explore what he sees as the strained relations. Israel's ambassador in Amman, Shimon Shamir is part of these consultations.

Getting back to the elections, worries about Likud forming the next government can be heard from all over. The former US ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis said that if Likud becomes the next government it will "blow up the Arab-Israeli peace process." Lewis said that Likud members are already talking about increasing the number of settlements if they come to power. He added that in this case, Ariel Sharon would become the finance minister so that he can give the required support to these settlements.

Lewis said that both Labour and Likud will be seeking to capture the votes of those who migrated from the former Soviet Union to Israel. They number 400,000, but these are expected to vote for their own party the Russian party that has just been created. The Arab vote also forms 12 percent of the electorate.

## Burns says Palestinians have earned release of US aid

By Ralph Dannheisser  
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Congress should swiftly release funds earmarked for the Palestinians now that Palestinian representatives have revoked charter provisions calling for the destruction of Israel, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns says.

"The United States government believes that what the Palestinian National Council, under the leadership of Chairman Arafat, was able to do last month was historic," Burns said.

In light of those actions, he said, the administration's "message to Congress" is that restrictions on US aid to the Palestinians should be lifted "in the very near future." The Palestinian people made "a commitment to peace," he said, and now "we Americans need to honor our commitment."

Burns made his comments in response to a question at a briefing for overseas reporters 16 May 16 at USIA's Foreign Press Center in Washington.

The spokesman observed that the Israeli government itself has taken the position that the Palestinians have met their commitment. Thus, he said, it is "a little bit disconcerting to see that there are some in Congress who are perhaps trying to hold the Palestinians to a standard that no one else, including the Israeli government, is holding them to."

Asked about the US view of the national elections scheduled in Israel May 29, Burns assured reporters that, regardless of the outcome, there would be no change in US policy and efforts to help bring a regionwide peace.

## Hamas leader: More security won't stop suicide attacks

By Timothy M. Phelps  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

NEW YORK—When Mousa Abu Marzook talks about the psychology of terrorism, it is best to listen.

He is a self-acknowledged leader of Hamas, which has been singularly successful in recent months in blowing up busloads of Israeli civilians.

But although he claims no involvement with Hamas' military operations and was confined to a tiny jail cell in New York City when the latest bombs went off, Marzook admits to a certain insight into what might motivate a young Palestinian to strap a bomb to his body and detonate it on a crowded bus.

Chillingly, he warns that all the security in the world will not stop another suicide attack.

"When one decides to die, I don't know how you can stop them," said the soft-spoken, balding and bearded 45-year-old. But for the bright orange jumpsuit and the bars on the window of the Manhattan Detention Center, he could be mistaken for the academic his doctorate in engineering would have qualified him to become.

Told that it is difficult for an American to understand how anyone could contemplate such an act, he replied, "I don't know how (Americans) could, because they do not face problems like the Palestinians."

"You see, Palestinians are without any hope, without any future, without any work or any homeland," he said. "What do they want the Palestinians to do?"

But don't Palestinians now have the alternative of negotiating peace with a willing government in Israel?

"That is just a dream, and the dream has never become reality," he said. "The Palestinians are facing more problems now,

more punishment, less people working" than before the peace process began three years ago.

That is why there is no shortage of young men available for suicide bombing missions, he said.

"When these young people start thinking, they reflect on what happened to them before," Marzook said. "If you look at their story, you will find they saw some of their relatives killed, others in prison for a long time. Many have been confined by Israeli security. So they want to do something about this."

Asked whether he personally endorses this approach, Marzook ducks the question. "That's not the right question. You have to ask how to solve the problem."

And does terrorism help solve the problem?

"Maybe yes, maybe no" is the response.

Marzook's hard line does not seem to extend to the United States, which has been his home for almost 20 years. His wife and six children, aged three to 15, live in the Virginia suburbs of Washington.

Hamas, he said, is not likely to retaliate against the United States for his detention last summer, or if a recent federal court order to extradite him to Israel is carried out after an appellate process likely to last several years.

Marzook was born in a refugee camp in Gaza and educated in Cairo, Egypt, before attending graduate schools in Colorado and Louisiana. He was arrested at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport in July after his return from one of many Middle East flights he describes as business trips.

He had been put on immigration's list of terrorists to watch for after complaints from Israel about his activities. The Israelis

said that a Palestinian businessman from Chicago whom they arrested in Israel in 1993 fingered Marzook as the director of Hamas' activities in the field.

Israeli officials allege that Marzook is personally responsible for several bombings, and that he has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for the organization.

Marzook does not deny a leadership role in Hamas, but says that political and military wings of the organization are separate, and that the money he raises goes to support Hamas' extensive network of medical facilities, schools and social programs benefiting the Palestinians.

His lawyer, Stanley Cohen, has appealed the order that Marzook be extradited to Israel to the federal appeals court in Manhattan.

## BCCI deal in progress

MORE THAN 35,000 British depositors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International look set to recoup up to 40 percent of the money they lost when the bank collapsed in July 1991, after Abu Dhabi agreed to pay a compensation package worth \$1.3 billion.

After years of litigation this payment represents the first firm prospect of compensation by Abu Dhabi, which held nearly 80 percent of BCCI shares.

The long-awaited breakthrough will come as welcome news to the 230,000 depositors who lost money when BCCI collapsed. The British depositors and creditors include 30 local councils.

This signals the end of an extraordinary international investigation into a multibillion dollar fraud surrounding the collapse of BCCI, which has involved a staggering 2,000 different law suits and involved an estimated 130 million documents. Accountancy fees alone are estimated to have reached \$300 million. There is suspicion that the bank was widely used for money laundering and other illicit purposes as

29,000 customer shave failed to claim deposits worth more than \$200 million.

The deal appears to represent a major improvement on the terms of a previously announced 20 per cent pay-out which is scheduled for later this summer.

The Abu Dhabi government has agreed to pay \$1.65 billion. It is paying a further sum of \$230 million into an account for distribution at a later date.

Compensation for depositors will be further increased by payments worth at least \$243 million from the US authorities and \$400 million pledged in an agreement with Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz of Saudi Arabia.

The payout proposal has been tied up in the international courts for nearly four years. In a statement the liquidators said the deal "constitutes a major step forward in the liquidation towards the payment of a first dividend to BCCI of admitted creditors later this year. The amount of the first dividend will be subject to court decisions which are currently in progress."

## Bahrain assembles its own working class

By John Lancaster  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

MANAMA, Bahrain—Not so long ago, a traveler checking into a hotel here might well have thought he had landed in Manila instead of Manama.

Filipinos or other Asian workers greeted him at the reception desk, served his meals and made up his room. Bahrainis were nowhere to be seen, except perhaps as managers or patrons at the bar.

Today, Bahraini hotels—and Bahraini—look different.

Bahrainis work as receptionists, accountants, cooks, housekeepers and—brace yourself—waiters. The government of this Gulf island emirate hopes more will follow.

Spurred by low oil prices and a desperate need for jobs, it has launched a crash program to replace foreign workers with local hires, even in hotels, restaurants and other service professions that Bahrainis traditionally have shunned in favor of cushy government posts.

"It cannot be that Bahrainis don't want to work," Labor Minister Abdel Nabi Shoala said in an interview. "Most of those who say this are themselves successful Bahrainis. There is no genetic disease among Bahrainis."

Bahrain's efforts have echoes throughout the Persian

Gulf. None of the so-called oil monarchies has escaped the effects of lower energy prices. All are under pressure to diversify their economies and create jobs for fast-growing populations.

The result has been a region-wide campaign to "localize"—or "Saudi-ize" or "Omani-ize"—work forces long dominated by cheap foreign labor.

The effort has involved training programs, public-awareness campaigns—Bahraini television recently aired a public-service spot that shows smiling Bahrainis working as hotel doormen, desk clerks and waiters—and growing pressure on private employers to hire local talent over foreigners.

The challenge is immense. Private employers in Bahrain and other Gulf countries complain of a generation "spoiled" by oil wealth, and deficient in work ethic as well as technical skills. That, in turn, has raised concerns that localization could harm growth and productivity.

"It's significant that Bahrainis who want to make money don't see it as sensible to employ other Bahrainis," said a British oil-company executive, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But in Bahrain, at least, necessity may prove to be the mother of incentive.

Lacking the oil wealth of its neighbors, the government has

been forced to make painful cuts in spending and subsidies. That, in turn, has exacerbated tensions between Sunni Muslims, who control the government and most of the island's wealth, and the Shiite Muslim majority, whose frustrations have erupted into anti-government protests and sabotage over the last 18 months.

With unemployment running as high as 30 percent in some Shiite villages, the government is keenly aware of the need to create jobs to head off a social explosion.

Bahrain's population of 572,000 is roughly divided between Bahrainis and foreigners. Bahrainis make up 90 percent of government workers and 30 percent of private-sector workers, a proportion that Shoala called "the highest in the region."

But Bahrain finds it has to do better. So the government is placing new emphasis on vocational training and has required private companies to expand their share of Bahraini workers by five percent a year.

Progress has been impressive in some high-wage industries, such as petroleum and aluminum, where Bahrainis make up more than 80 percent of the work force.

Bahrainis have been less enthusiastic about lower-wage jobs in hotels and restaurants, but attitudes appear to be

changing. Bahrainis now constitute 25 percent of employees in four- and five-star hotels, compared with five percent in the early 1980s, according to Nabi Daylami, who manages the Holiday Inn here and heads a government-sponsored council on hotel training.

"Bahrainis now are encouraged to work in this line," Daylami said. "We are very optimistic. They are accepting this job as a reputable career."

Leading the effort is Bahrain's Hotel and Catering Centre, which was started in 1979 with 16 students and now has 250, including some from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries.

Situated in the former headquarters of the British Royal Air Force in Bahrain, the school has four commercial kitchens, a student-run restaurant and hotel, and a curriculum that runs to courses in housekeeping, food production and accounting.

The school also offers courses for aspiring travel agents and tour guides, fields described by head tourism instructor Vincent Coyle as "perfectly acceptable to the culture here."

Hotel and restaurant work is a tougher sell. "To be honest, it's not easy," one instructor said. "I won't lie to you. But people are starting to accept this."

## Kuwait holds sell-off KIA inquiry

By Paul Farrelly

THE HEAD of the Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) is under investigation by the country's Attorney-General over alleged irregularities in its privatization program.

The allegations against KIA president Ali Raschid Al Bader centre on the sell-off last June of the National Industries Co., an engineering, construction and investment group that has since moved into the UK.

In January, it took over Birmingham-based BI Group, the former Bromsgrove industries run by Asian entrepreneur Bijan Sedghi, in a deal worth over \$100 million. The KIA is the parent and Mr Bader the ultimate head of the London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO), which owns large stakes in British Petroleum and Germany's Daimler-Benz among \$15bn-worth of holdings.

The privatization program is a key plank in paying for Kuwait's reconstruction after the 1991 Gulf War and the review of the NIC sell-off is an embarrassment. With elections due this year, it may prompt calls for wider investigation of the KIA's handling of the privatization process.

"The danger is that the Attorney-General may start looking into other sell-offs as well. There may also be calls for the privatization of NIC to be annulled, raising a question mark over who owns it," one highly placed Kuwaiti source said.

Mr Bader resigned mysteriously last December after three years in the post only to withdraw the resignation a month later.

Sources say he is being investigated under the draconian 1993 Protection of Public Property Law over alleged negligence in arrangements for the sale of NIC as well as the alleged purchase, months previously, of NIC shares by his wife, sister and dead brother's estate at less than half the privatization price.

Mr Bader was interviewed in mid-April and the question of whether to prosecute is still being considered, they say.

In the Kuwaiti politics, dominated by feuding between the merchant classes and the ruling Al Sabah family, Mr Bader's opponents are understood to have urged the refusal of his resignation to heighten his embarrassment.

Mr Bader has been identified with merchant interests and complaint to the Attorney-General was started by the Kuwait Projects Company, which is controlled by Nasser Sabah Al Sabah, the son of the Foreign Minister. The KIA president, who is understood to have strongly denied the charges, was unavailable for comment.

The KIA has been keeping a low profile. It is continuing, however, with precautions of former executives in London and Madrid over the \$5 billion collapse in 1992 of its Spanish investment empire, Grupo Torras, amid allegations of fraud, mismanagement and secret political payments during the Gulf War.

Since the Gulf War, the KIA has cut its portfolio by two thirds from \$50 billion to pay for reconstruction at home.

Independent

## Peace needs to be supported by concrete facts says Omani Minister

By George S. Hishmeh  
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs believes that the Middle East peace process is irreversible, saying "we strongly believe that we are at the final stage in a long tunnel."

The minister, Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, expressed his confidence and optimism about the shape of things to come in the Middle East in appearances before two influential Washington think tanks: the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on 6 May and the Center for Strategic and International Studies on 13 May.

Bin Alawi has also been meeting with Clinton Administration officials and business leaders during his 10-day visit to the United States.

As a result of his trip here, he said he is hopeful that an Omani delegation will be visiting Washington shortly "to develop bilateral economic relations" with the United States. He did not elaborate but Oman has lately been weighing

alternate options for economic development in the next 25 years which exclude dependence on oil revenues.

Oman was praised for its support of "goals of moderation and stability" in the region and for its cooperation with the United States and its allies, which was said to be "essential in turning aggression, protecting the freedom of the seas and promoting peace throughout the region."

Bin Alawi, reminding his audiences before two influential Washington think tanks, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy on 6 May and the Center for Strategic and International Studies on 13 May.

He told a questioner that all Arab leaders have considered peace-making and "relations with Israel" as a strategic option. "It is not a tactic."

The minister expressed confidence that the permanent status negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians "will have to come to a successful result," maintaining "no one can afford to have a

failure."

He argued that the large participation of Palestinians in the recent elections meant that the Palestinian people want peace — "the period of liberation is over."

After pointing out that there are "substantial levels of confidence" among the present leaders in the Israeli and Palestinian camps, he said he would not be surprised if a Palestinian state were to be established.

He conceded that the "critical point" in the negotiations with Israel is whether Israel withdraws from Arab territories it occupied in the 1967 war. He said, matter of factly, that "Israel clearly understands that it has to withdraw from Arab territory (but) when and how this will (take place) will depend on the parties negotiating."

Bin Alawi would not be drawn into any discussions on Jerusalem but again expressed confidence that an agreement would be reached between the Palestinians and Israelis on the city: he did not see an alternative to an agreement. "We

are convinced that peace is the only venture for both sides," he stated.

The minister said his government, which exchanges trade representation with Israel and has seen visits by two Israeli prime ministers in recent years, is satisfied with the present level of contacts with the Jewish state.

However, he said the relationship with Israel has "the potential to generate significant and tangible economic benefits for both parties."

He said it was Oman's conviction that "political appreciation of the peace process needs to be supported by concrete facts on the ground which would bring the people of the region in cooperative endeavors and establish real economic relations."

At this point, he cited Oman's development of a desalination center in Muscat through which, he said, his country hoped "to provide at least one possible model of regional cooperation."

Oman's objective, he continued, was to make "an early and constructive contribution ... by promoting and supporting

multilateral ventures which would promote peace in the context of practical cooperation in economic exchanges."

Repeating his government's "endorsement without reservation" of the results of the Sharm El Sheikh Peacemakers conference, he said there is little that can be done by his country, which maintains diplomatic relations with both Iraq and Iran, until Baghdad and Tehran take "a different approach to develop a stable region."

He, nevertheless, maintained that his country believes in pursuing a dialogue with the two countries. He indicated that his country fears that any confrontation would jeopardize the stability and security of the countries of the region. "We are working very hard to have both sides understand that it is very important to maintain peace and stability despite the hard views between the two parties," he said when discussing the US policy goal of "dual containment."

Bin Alawi added that his country cannot see stability and peace established in the region "without Iranian involve-

ment." But he doubted that the Iranian regime would "interfere" should Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinians reach a peace agreement with Israel. Underlining the differences within the Iranian regime, Bin Alawi said his assessment is that it will be "a long time before we see a unified Iranian policy on the Middle East."

Describing Iraq as "the source of instability in the region," Bin Alawi said Baghdad has no choice but to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions. He said these Omani views were communicated to the Saddam Hussein regime "publicly and privately."

The Omani minister came out in full support of the Bahrain government's reaction to recent unrest in the island state. He saw the disturbances there as the result of "a terrorist act supported by a few individuals who want to speed up history which cannot be the case."

He continued, "The duty of any government is to do whatever it can in order to keep law and order and this is what Bahrain is doing at the moment."





## Jordanian economy on track for first 50 years

By Mohammad Adawiya  
Special to The Star

AS THE nation prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its independence, it is appropriate to take a long-term retrospective look at the country's significant economic and industrial achievements. While stories of economic demise seem to dominate the papers today, it should be noted that Jordan, over the course of its brief independent history, has much to be proud of.

The criterion on which to judge the performance of a nation's economy changes depending on the time span observed. The challenges the economy faces today, for example, concentrate primarily on short term, constantly fluctuating issues which are regularly used to measure the economic health of the country including exchange rates, GNP growth rates, and so forth. These issues, however important, should not be the sole measure of economic prosperity. For due to their constantly changing nature, these variables only act as superficial barometers of economic health without revealing much of the long-term, structural condition of the economy.

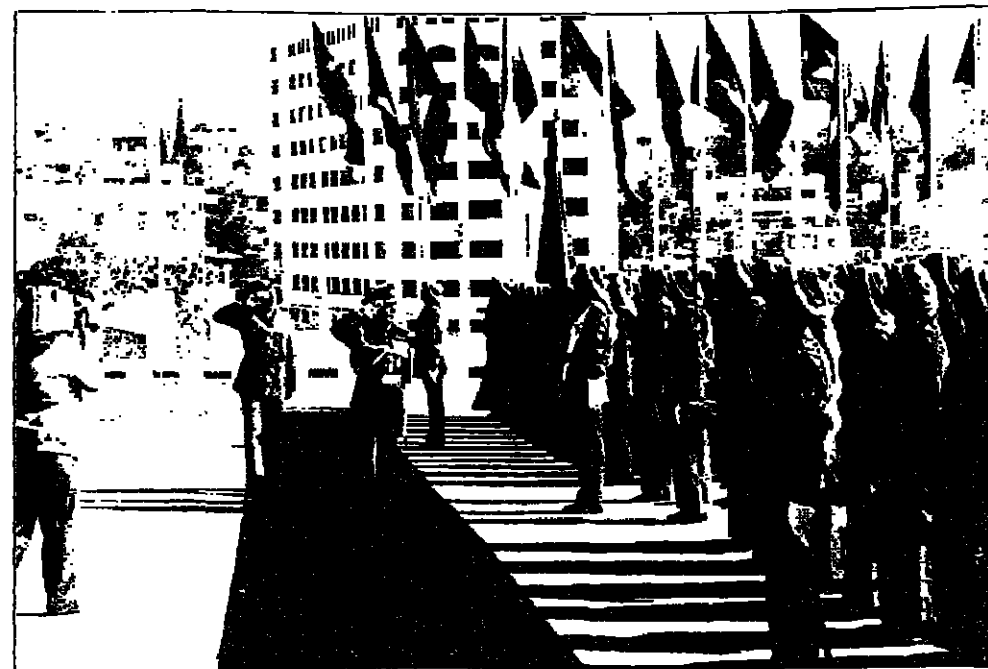
Generally speaking, the infrastructure of the Jordanian economy has progressed well over the course of its history. One very important measure of infrastructural progress and a crucial phase of industrial development deals with the agricultural sector. The dependency between agriculture and industry, and indeed development cannot be overstated. For development to occur, for a nation to grow economically, and for a nation to industrialize, the country must see a transition in its population from the agricultural to the industrial sectors. This is precisely what we have seen in Jordan.

Gradually, the Jordanian labor force has shifted away from the agricultural sector into such activities as construction, energy and administrative services. This has enabled Jordan to allocate more of its work force towards industry. Between 1987 and 1993, for

example, the percentage of the labor force associated with the agricultural sector shrank from 7.4% to 6.4% respectively. Conversely agricultural production has increased 39.2% over the same period. This took place while the country was experiencing a simultaneous 37% rise in its population. This observation is crucial, for it suggests that, whether through more efficient farming methods or larger plots of land, a smaller number of workers are feeding a larger number of people.

Another long-term, structural area in which Jordan has experienced success is in the area of economic development. While Jordan's economic growth numbers are a

success story in their own right, Jordan has much to be proud of in terms of its economic development. Where economic growth is simply a rise in national or per-capita income, economic development on the other hand refers to a structural change in the economy as a whole. It may, for example, imply increases in literacy and life expectancy and a reduction in infant mortality. On all these fronts Jordan too has succeeded. Adult literacy rates jumped from 65.4% in 1979 to 81% in 1991, life expectancy rose nearly ten percent during the same period to 67 years, and infant mortality was cut from



His Majesty King Hussein opening one of the sessions of Parliament

69 per one thousand births to 33.8.

Jordan is currently facing a series of daunting economic challenges that have been the focus of much press in recent months and have led many to

form an extremely negative view of the economy. Despite these challenges, however, and the attention received, Jordan's economy has progressed, for the most part, like that of most industrialized nations in their

early years. The shift from a rural to an urban population is gradually allowing for greater focus on industry and with it a chance for a higher standard of living. ■

## Political history of Jordan

28-30 March 1921

Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein becomes the ruler of Trans-Jordan.

11 April 1921

The first central government in Trans-Jordan is formed under Rashid Tali.

1 April 1928

The first Shura Council in the Emirate is formed to enact and interpret laws and statutes.

16 April 1928

The first Constitution of the Emirate of Trans-Jordan is published. This Constitution was derived from the spirit of the treaty with Britain.

17 June 1928

The electoral law on the election of the legislature assembly is published.

25 July 1928

The first Jordanian national conference is held. It declared its opposition of the Jordanian-British treaty, the Constitution and the electoral law.

1 September 1928

The country is divided into electoral constituencies and the registration of voters is initiated for the election of the First Legislative Assembly in the Emirate of Trans-Jordan.

2 April 1929

Prince Abdullah opens the First Legislative Assembly the Emirate of Trans-Jordan and delivers the Speech from the Throne.

17 October 1934

The first ordinary session of the Third Legislative Assembly opens.

Continued on page 8

## Foreign investment continues to be main hope of government

By Mohammad Adawiya  
Special to The Star

FROM THE ongoing crisis at the Amman Financial Market to the general challenges facing the overall economy, the government is placing a great deal of weight on the importance of foreign investment in pulling the economy out of its current gloom. In an effort to combat the recent wave of unfavorable economic sentiment, the government continued to stress that an economic upswing, while near, will only truly take hold with the inflow of foreign capital. As some point out, however, many obstacles remain in attracting foreign investment.

"We're talking about a part of the world which frightens a lot of foreign investors," says the head of the Economic and Commercial Affairs section of the United States Embassy Mr Gary Grappo, of the potential problems facing Jordan in attracting foreign investment. Citing unfamiliarity with the culture and politics of the region, Mr Grappo explains that western investors have a tendency to equate the region with political instability and thus tend to shy away from coming to Jordan. In this regard, he adds, Jordan and its

neighbors, have a "tall task" in promoting the region "as a place where business can be done and profits can be made."

Although the exact magnitude foreign investment will play in turning the Jordanian economy around is not known, the US embassy official stresses that it "will and must play a very significant role in its prosperity and development." He views foreign capital as a means of employing people, establishing business and possibly raising the standard of living. Despite being a true believer of foreign investment and its possible contributions to an economy however, Mr Grappo questions the condition of the overall investment climate in Jordan.

"It's a good start when you change your investment and tax laws to encourage foreign investment...but I think a lot more needs to be done," he said, commenting on the substantial amount of work that still needs to be in



attracting foreign investment. In addition to more open and attractive investment laws, the commercial chief stressed the need to streamline the overall process of investment.

"Passing laws to treat foreign investors more favorably is one thing, changing the bureaucracy to treat the foreign investor better is something else," he pointed out. Citing the unnecessary complications involved in dealing with the departments such as customs and trade zones, Mr Grappo emphasized the need for the bureaucracy to adopt a new attitude, realizing

that "foreign investors are here to help" and are indeed "allies."

In addition to this new attitude, Mr Grappo explained that Jordan must also begin to realize that it is competing in a much broader market than previously thought. "Jordan has to look at itself as in the global market competing for investment dollars," he said, explaining that it can no longer compare its current investment climate with that of a few years ago. Instead, he points out that Jordan has to compare itself not only with its regional neighbors like Dubai and Israel, but just as importantly, with countries such as Hungary, Poland and Taiwan all of which are competing for investor's dollars.

Overall, the economic chief at the US embassy is optimistic about the future prospects of the Jordanian economy. While cautioning that more work and time is undoubtedly needed, he also stressed that "Jordan is finally registering on the radar screens of American and European businesses," and expects to see "significant changes" in the economy in the next three to five years. ■



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# His Majesty King Hussein Statesmanship throughout the years

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein is the direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) through the male line of the Prophet's grandson Al Hassan.

The King completed his elementary education in Amman, and received his secondary education at Victoria College in Alexandria, Egypt, and at Harrow Public School in England.

versive and destabilizing activities of various guerrilla factions based in Jordan.

providing an umbrella for the Palestinian people to negotiate their future as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.



Hussein at 16 with King Abdallah, the founder of modern Jordan

- Continued from page 7*
- 3 December 1938**  
Amendments that strengthen the position of the Emir in issuing provisional laws are introduced to some articles of the Constitution.
  - 5 September 1939**  
A new amendment to the Constitution is approved. The amendment strengthens the authority of Prince Abdullah over the government. The amendment is viewed as a concession by the British Mandate authorities to Prince Abdullah.
  - 25 May 1946**  
The Fifth Legislative Assembly holds an extraordinary session. It declares Jordan as an independent state with King Abdullah, as a constitutional monarch and head of state.
  - 28 November 1946**  
The Fifth Legislative Assembly endorses the new Constitution of the country in accordance with the principle of the separation of powers. It gives the right of legislation to the Parliament and to the King. It also establishes a bi-cameral system.
  - 20 October 1947**  
The first Chamber of Deputies is elected according to the new constitution and electoral law. On 24 October 1947 the King announces the names of the nine Senators, or half the number of Deputies.
  - 2 December 1947**  
The Chamber of Deputies denounces the United Nations resolution to partition Palestine between the Arabs and the Jews and calls on the government to confront the resolution in coordination with the Arab League.
  - 12 December 1949**  
Amendments to law No. 55 doubling the seats of the Chamber of Deputies from 20 to 40 is endorsed. Half of the seats are allocated to the West Bank representative.
  - 20 July 1951**  
King Abdullah is assassinated while entering the Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem for prayers.
  - 6 September 1951**  
King Talal is crowned monarch.
  - 7 November 1951**  
The House of Representatives votes for a new Constitution to be valid as of 1 January 1952.
  - 2 May 1953**  
King Hussein succeeds his father King Talal.
  - 15 May 1953**  
King Hussein dismisses the government of Prime Minister Tawfiq Abu Al Huda and designates Fawzi Al Mulqi to form a new cabinet that includes some elements of the opposition in the House of Deputies.
  - 2 May 1954**  
The government of Prime Minister Fawzi Al Mulqi resigns, and Tawfiq Abu Al Huda is designated to form a new cabinet.
  - 16 October 1954**  
The fourth parliamentary election are held. Wide-scale clashes take place following accusations that the Abu Al-Huda government rigged the elections to secure the defeat of opposition candidates. 14 people are killed and 17 others are injured in the clashes which last for several days.
  - 21 October 1954**  
The opposition declares a general strike to protest government intervention in the elections. Later that same month, 40 opposition figures, including 26 candidates for elections, submit a memorandum to the king calling for the dissolution of the House of Representatives.
  - 13 December 1955**  
Haza' Al Majali forms a cabinet in favour of Jordan joining the Central Treaty Organization (the Baghdad Pact). Large-scale disturbances erupt in protest against this policy.
  - 19 December 1965**  
The fourth House of Deputies is dissolved and the government of Prime Minister Haza' Al-Majali resigns. A transitional government under Ibrahim Hashim is formed to supervise new elections.
  - 26 January 1956**  
Prime Minister Samir Al-Rifai presents his cabinet statement and pledges respect for public liberties.

*Continued on page 9*



The young Hussein with his father, King Talal

ther, Sharif Hussein Bin Ali, Emir of Mecca and late King of the Hijaz, led the Great Arab Revolt of 1916 against Turkish occupation of Arab lands, and paved the way for the states of the Hejaz, Syria, Iraq and Transjordan.

Sharif Hussein's second son, King Abdullah, founded the Emirate of Transjordan in 1921. It assumed the name of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan upon formal independence from Britain on 22 March 1946.

In 1989, Jordan held its first full and free parliamentary elections since 1967. Soon thereafter, King Hussein appointed a royal commission representing the entire spectrum of Jordanian political thought to draft a national charter that would establish the framework for democracy and political pluralism. The National Charter was ratified by King Hussein in June 1991.



His Majesty King Hussein with his family

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## HRH Crown Prince Hassan An intellectual development

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan is the direct descendant of the Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him) through the male line of the Prophet's grandson Al Hassan.

Crown Prince Hassan was born in Amman on the 20 March 1947 to his father Prince (later King) Talal and his mother Princess (later Queen) Zein Al Sharaf. He is the youngest brother of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan.

Prince Hassan underwent his primary education in Jordan before going to Summerfields Preparatory School and then to Harrow in England. He then went on to Christ Church, Oxford, from where he received a B.A. (Hon.) in Oriental Studies in 1967. He subsequently received his M.A.

On August 28th 1968, His Royal Highness married Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, who comes from a distinguished family of the Indian Subcontinent. Her late father, HE Mr Mohammed

Ikrumullah worked closely with the founder of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Janah, and was Pakistan's first Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and many times an Ambassador. Her Royal Highness' mother, Begum Shaista Suhrawardy Ikrumullah, is a writer and the first female Member of Parliament in Pakistan, as well as an Ambassador. Moreover, Princess Sarvath's paternal uncle was Vice-President of India, and her maternal uncle was Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Their Royal Highnesses have four children: Princess Rahma (13 August 1969), Princess Sumaya (14 May 1971), Princess Badiya (28 March 1974), and Prince Rashid (20 May 1979).



HM King Hussein with HRH Prince Hassan

In April 1965, His Royal Highness became Crown Prince and Heir to the Hashemite throne of Jordan. Since then he has constantly served as His Majesty King Hussein's closest political advisor,

deputy and confidant, as well as Regent in his absence.

During this time, Prince Hassan has also personally initiated and directed a number of Jordanian and international institutes and committees. In Jordan, he has chaired the

Biannual Conferences on the History and Archaeology of Jordan; the Hashemite Aid and Relief Agency; the Centre for Educational Development; the Centre on Refugees in Yarmouk University; and most recently, the new Aal Al Bait University in Mafrak.

On the International stage, His Royal Highness, in 1981, addressing the 36th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, proposed the establishment of a New International Humanitarian Order. This led, in 1983, to his founding and co-chairing of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (I.C.I.H.I.), whose final report he presented in 1987 to the Secretary General at the 42nd General Assembly.

In the field of religion, His Royal Highness initiated a series of contacts and meetings that evolved into a systematic Interfaith Dialogue. These consist primarily of three separate, albeit complimentary, on-going consultations with the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate (chambers), the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue (Vatican) and the Independent Commission on Christian Muslim Relations (Deanery of Windsor).

His Royal Highness has paid official and working visits to

numerous nations around the world and has received high decorations from over 20 countries. He holds the rank of Honorary General in the Jordanian Armed Forces and has been awarded Honorary Doctorates from the University in Jordan and abroad. Further more, in March 1987, His Majesty King Hussein conferred upon His Royal Highness the Al Hussein bin Ali Medal, which is Jordan's highest decoration.

His Royal Highness has written numerous published articles and three books, on political and regional issues, in various languages. These are: a *Study on Jerusalem* (1979), *Palestinian Self-Determination: A Study on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip* (1981) and *Search for Peace* (1984). His Royal Highness speaks fluent Arabic, English and French, has studied Hebrew, and understands German and Turkish.

He enjoys and promotes many kinds of sport, including squash, scuba diving, swimming, mountaineering and skiing, and regularly plays polo, representing Jordan in international competitions. He holds a black belt fifth Dan in Taekwondo and he is a proficient helicopter pilot. ■

Continued from page 8

1 March 1956

King Hussein makes a decision Arabizing the Jordanian army and expelling General John Glubb and a number of senior army officers.

27 October 1956

The King designates Suleiman Al Nabulsi, leader of the National Socialist Party and the head of the largest parliamentary bloc, to form a government. The government is formed on the 29th of October 1956 and includes nine members of the National Socialist Party, the Arab Baath Socialist Party and the National Front, as well as three non-party members.

20 November 1956

The House of Deputies approves the recommendations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to exchange diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and to take speedy steps to revoke the 1948 British-Jordanian treaty.

13 March 1957

The British-Jordanian treaty is terminated following days of negotiations in February 1957.

10 April 1957

The government of Prime Minister Suleiman Al Nabulsi resigns at the King's request following differences between the Royal Palace and the government on Jordan's position towards the Eisenhower Doctrine and Jordan-policy towards other Arab countries.

25 April 1957

Ibrahim Hashem is designated to form a new cabinet following the eruption of large-scale disturbances to protest the resignation of Nabulsi's government, and the arrest of the "Free Army Officers" after an alleged coup attempt. The government declares Martial Law, dissolves political parties and arrests the leaders of the opposition.

28 April 1957

The extraordinary session of the fifth House of Deputies is terminated before its term is complete.

16 October 1957

An ordinary session of the fifth House of Deputies is convened. The president of the House announces the resignation of six deputies of the National Socialist Party.

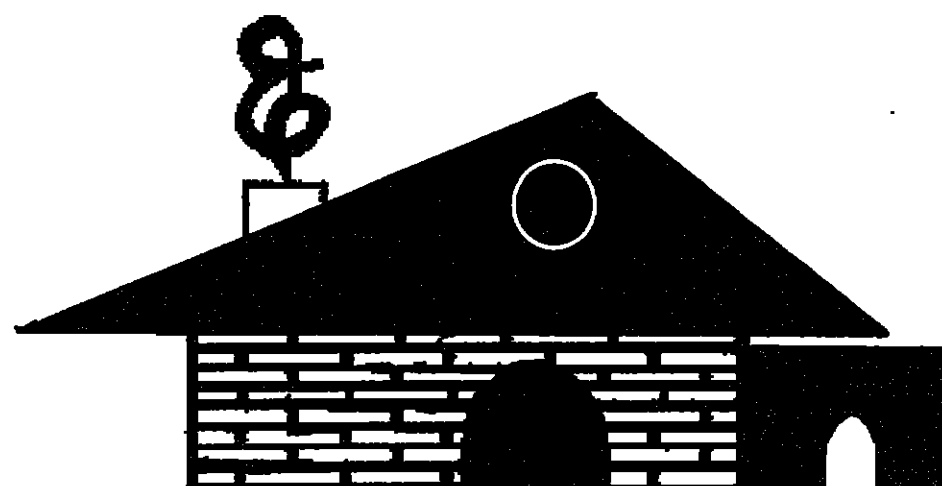
Continued on page 10



HRH Crown Prince Hassan and family



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# Jordan's industry looks to the 21st century

By Pam Dougherty  
Special to The Star

**JORDANIAN INDUSTRY** has developed slowly over the past 50 years but as the 21st century looms, the pace of development is quickening and industrialists are showing a new interest in achieving world standards and a world market.

The coveted ISO 9000 certificate, a rarity in Jordan even two years ago, is now becoming a standard goal across a range of industries while Al Hikma Pharmaceuticals has just won its first US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval making it the first Arab pharmaceutical company allowed to export to the massive United States market.

More new companies are also coming in to the market with a regional or international

strategy already in place. Jordan Industrial Resources Co. began production of olochemicals for the manufacture of soaps, pharmaceuticals and paints just three years ago. Now it is already working on a strategy to establish itself as the regional producer serving its own downstream plants in a number of neighboring countries.

Eastern Company for Chemical Plants has opened a \$1 million plant producing biological detergents for the regional and international market. The company has used its R&D facilities and the capacities of its own steel structures manufacturing plant to produce a product that it is confident and can meet international quality standards at well below international prices.

Jordan's major minerals companies are certainly look-

ing towards the next century in confident mood. The Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Co. (APC) have always had the advantage of abundant local natural resources. JPMC has proven reserves of 900 million tons of phosphate at its main mine at Shidiya in southern Jordan. Dead Sea potash reserves are 2000 million tons and other minerals around 14,000 million tons.

With a combined annual turnover of over JD 300 million the two companies already provide half of Jordan's industrial export earnings and are major foreign currency earners. There is little chance that their dominant role will diminish. When its current joint ventures go into their second year of production JPMC's annual earnings alone will be boosted by a further JD 140 million to close to JD350 million.

The two companies are using a similar approach to their on-going development, looking for loans to finance expansion of basic production capacity, which remains the responsibility of the largely government-owned parent companies, and attracting direct foreign investment through the establishment of separate joint ventures for downstream projects.

While JPMC is moving rapidly from its traditional role as a producer and exporter of rock phosphate, phosphate is still the basis of its core business and one of its major jobs during 1996 will be to complete phase one of a major expansion program that will push its production capacity to 3.5 million tons annually. With that done, the company will move on to a second phase that will boost production to seven million tons annually by 1998-99.

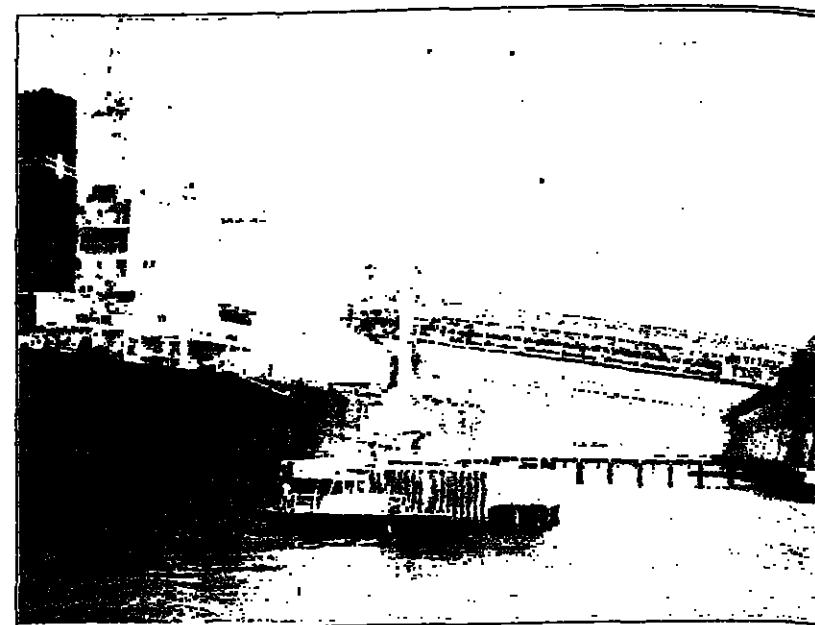
In its downstream activities the company already has two joint ventures underway in Jordan, the first with India's Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation (SPIC) is a \$160 million project for production of 200,000 tons of phosphoric acid a year at Shidiya, in which the Indian company has a 60 percent interest. The second project is the

Nippon Jordan Chemical Co., a joint venture with APC and a consortium of the Japanese agricultural federation Zen-noh, Mitsubishi Corporation, Mitsubishi Kasei Corporation and Asahi Industries for a 300,000 tons per year compound fertilizer and ammonium phosphates project in Aqaba, with the Japanese also having a 60 percent share.

JPMC also has a 10 percent share holding in a plant for diammonium phosphate and urea production being developed in Pakistan by the local Fauji Fertilizer. A third joint venture now under discussion with Norway's Norsk Hydro, could put the existing ventures in the shade. The two sides are looking at a \$400 million investment in fertilizers projects in both Shidiya and Aqaba in which the Norwegians would have a majority share.

APC is also looking to expansion and diversification to secure its future. It is currently expanding its basic potash production capacity from 1.8 million tons a year to more than two million tons before 2000. The company has also started on a \$5 million project to produce technical grade potassium chloride, which like the potash expansion, is being handled directly by the company.

Most of APC's downstream projects will be handled through a holding company, the Jordan Dead Sea Industrial Co., which it has established jointly with JPMC and government institutions. An early project for a salt production plant was carried out by APC directly and then hived-off later as a separ-



Loading phosphate at Aqaba port

ate public share holding company.

APC has recently issued design tenders for new \$100 million magnesium oxide plant and is also working on a joint venture with Israel for a \$50 million bromine plant. At the same time the Jordan Dead Sea Industrial Co., is going ahead with the establishment of a new chemical complex in Aqaba that will include a 75,000 ton per year potassium sulphate unit and a 40,800 ton per year dicalcium phosphate unit.

As major players in the development of southern Jordan, both JPMC and APC are also conscious of the need to support new non-minerals industrial ventures that will strengthen the productive capacity of the area and generate new job opportunities. In 1994 they joined with the Jordan Cement Factories Co., to form the Jordan Investment and Southern Development Co.

The company has now succeeded in attracting the participation of Asea Brown Boveri in an industrial service company. The company, ABB Southern Development and Industrial Equipment Ltd will establish a workshop in Aqaba to manufacture spare parts and

provide servicing for high voltage motors for JPMC, APC and JCPC who now have to send their machines abroad for servicing.

JPMC is also shareholder in the Consulting and Contracting for Industrial Projects (CCIP) which has plans to launch three new public share holding companies to provide spare parts for Jordan's minerals industries. It has also taken a founding share in the Jordanian Mining Investments Co., which will exploit a range of minerals resources and is also a partner in a private share holding company established in 1994 to produce gypsum plaster.

After a decade and a half of heavy investment to expand basic production capacity together with a successful diversification into a range of downstream activities, JPMC and APC are already the two largest mining and minerals ventures in the Middle East. With the new projects coming on stream they should establish themselves as major players on the world minerals scene, offering Jordan the opportunity for new jobs, a level of industrial skills into the next century, and beyond.

Continued from page 9

2 June 1960

Law No. 24 for 1960, which is the provisional electoral law for the House of Representatives is enacted.

27 July 1961

King Hussein calls for the election of the sixth House of Deputies.

27 November 1962

The election of the seventh House of Deputies held.

8 August 1963

The House of Deputies is dissolved before the end of this constitutional term.

18 April 1967

The election for the ninth House of Deputies is held. It is the last election witnessed by the West Bank before occupation in the June 1967 war.

23 November 1974

Article 72 of the constitution is amended to allow postponement of general elections after dissolving the House, for a period of no more than one year, if the cabinet decides that it is difficult to conduct elections. The House is dissolved by a Royal Decree following the declaration of the Rabat Summit recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole, legitimate representative of Palestinian people.

4 February 1976

The dissolved ninth House of Deputies is convened by a Royal Decree to look into any amendment to the Constitution. On 7th February, the House is dissolved once again.

13 April 1978

King Hussein addresses a message to the prime minister calling for the formation of a National Consultative Assembly to give advice and counsel to the executive branch. The term of the assembly is set two years.

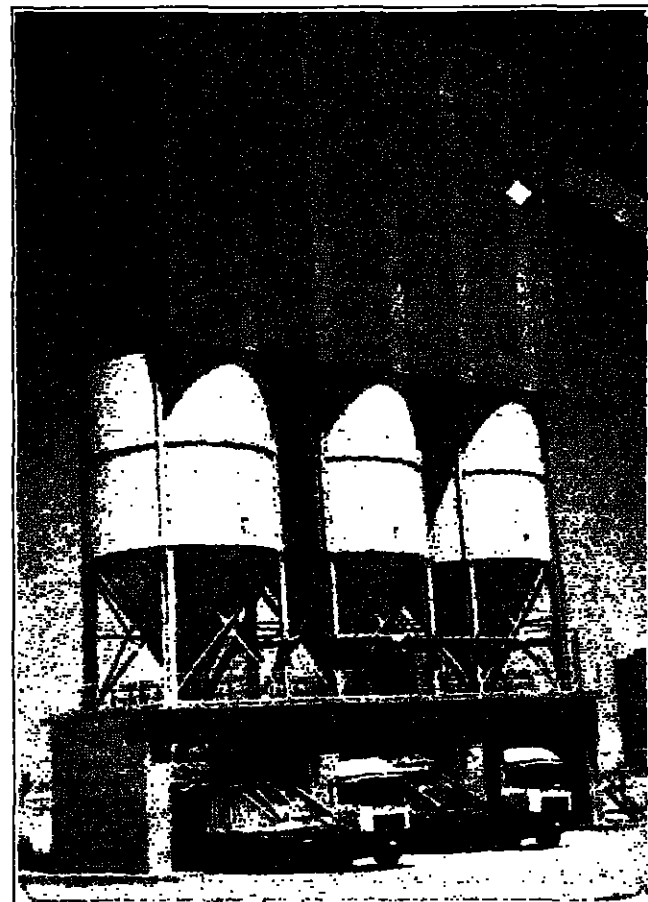
20 April 1978

The first National Consultative Assembly is formed with 60 members under the speakership of Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi.

20 April 1980

The second National Consultative Assembly is formed with 60 members under the speakership of Mr. Ahmad Al-Thrawneh

Continued on page 11



The Shidiya phosphate plant looks forward to an even brighter future



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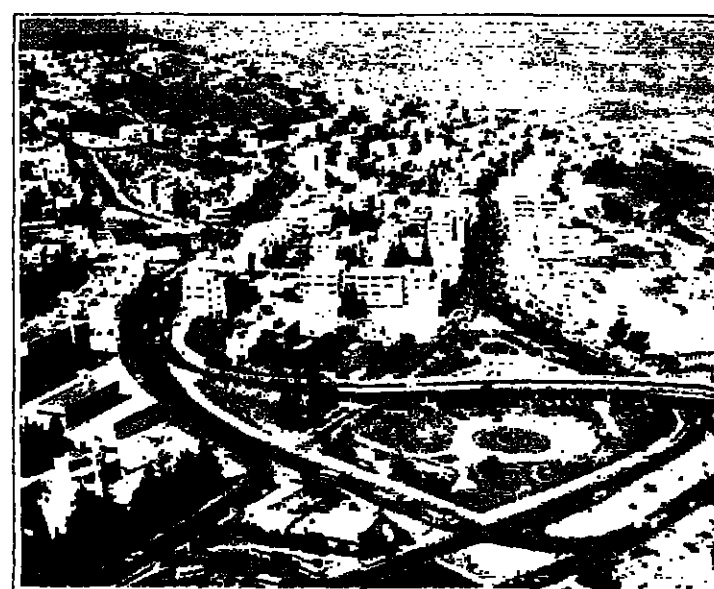
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## Amman in pictures



A modern view of Amman



Al Hussein Mosque is the oldest Muslim shrine in downtown Amman



King Abdullah Mosque dominates scene

24 April

The King Abdullah II of Jordan is crowned in Amman.

8 August

The King Abdullah II of Jordan is crowned in Amman.

8 November

The King Abdullah II of Jordan is crowned in Amman.

9 April 19

The King Abdullah II of Jordan is crowned in Amman.

9 June 19

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9 June 19

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## The lovely black gives energy to Jordanians

FIFTEEN PIASTERS buy more than a drink, it offers a taste of the essential lubricant of everyday life in Jordan.

Even if you have just arrived in Jordan, you can't have failed to notice the important role coffee plays in daily life. It's everywhere you look: in the lobby of your hotel, there's very likely a Bedouin serving coffee. Stop by a small shop and you'll likely be offered a cup within minutes. And no business meeting seems complete without repeated offers of the lovely black.

Besides restaurants, coffee houses and hotels, there are hundreds of places in Amman where coffee is sold on the street. You may have noticed them downtown; often little more than an open doorway, with tall gleaming pots full of coffee, "well, coffee, I guess," you conclude, wishing you could read the signs, with their elegant Arabic script. Perhaps you've seen the coffee-vendors ply their trade near the souq—trading from makeshift tables (street trading is technically illegal), the same silver pots dispense the steaming brew. You may even have smiled at a giant coffee-pot towering over a tiny port-a-cabin at the side of the motorway, where passing motorists screech to a halt for a cup.

No doubt they need it to brace themselves for the Amman traffic. But these coffee places are everywhere. Is coffee simply Jordan's equivalent of the Big Mac?

Or is there more to this than meets the eye?

Now, if you're like us, you can't resist a mystery. So you'll understand that we just had to get to the bottom of this love-affair Jordanians have with coffee. We had questions and we wanted answers. Why is coffee so important? What is that unusual, indefinable taste? And do they serve decaf?

Taking our courage in both hands and, to be honest, taking our taxi driver along as interpreter—we set out to find the answers in the street coffee stalls of Amman. And what a treat this trip turned out to be! Stopping at one of those roadside stands, decorated with coloured lights and Coca-Cola stickers (though they actually

only sell—shhh!—the other one), we step up to two shiny pots, tended by three young men in green jackets.

"How much is a coffee? we ask. The question instantly marks us as foreigners (though the blond hair and blue eyes may also be something of a give away), for every Jordanian knows a coffee costs 15 piasters. They don't even bother marking the price anywhere on the stand. A glass of tea is 10 piasters, but then tea is for wimps.

"OK, two coffee please." We frantically sort through a handful of nearly identical, virtually illegible coins.



"Sukkar or no sukkar?" comes back the question. Decisions, decisions—we actually prefer our coffee very slightly sweetened. Luckily, "little sukkar" is also on the menu: a mixture from one pot (unsweetened coffee) and the other (sugarsweet) is poured into a tiny, handle-less cup.

The pouring and presentation is performed as a delicate ritual. The pot is tilted over and a thin stream of brown gold jumps into the gently fluted, white, green and gold bowl. Held between two fingers, with the others raised, the blow is proffered as if a jewel.

A truckload of chickens thunders inconspicuously past.

The cup really holds no more than a sip or two—but what sips! Rich, hot, sweet and aromatic with the scent of the East, the flavor thrills the nostrils as much as the tongue. This is not like coffee at home.

Indeed not, Jordanian coffee is Arabic coffee at its best: dark, strong and heavily scented. Americans, used to that coffee-scented brown water they drink across the

Atlantic, have been known to wince at the first sip. Europeans, who have more coffee stamina, still find the Jordanian brew takes some time getting used to. It's designed to be drunk black, and most locals take it with plenty of sugar. Just a couple of tiny cups will deliver a caffeine and sugar buzz that lasts for hours. Wonderful, but definitely not recommended just before bedtime!

Once past the shock of its strength, however, Jordanian coffee intrigues. Its spicy, almost smoky aroma has a familiar, but hard-to-place bouquet. Just what do they put in this stuff? The secret ingredient turns out to be cardamom.

Small beige pods full of tiny black seeds—a familiar sight to anyone who's eaten Indian curry—cardamom flats in the coffee as it brews, lending the distinctive, exotic scent to the rich black

beverage.

The cardamom discovery is just the start of our lessons in coffee. Jordanians are particular about their coffee, and in their opinion, the best comes from Brazil. The dark-roasted beans are rarely brewed at the coffee stand; instead, a strong brew is made elsewhere—often at home, in the owner's kitchen—and brought to the stand in metal containers. There, the coffee is poured into the tall silver pots, and diluted a little if necessary.

The coffee pots have an ingenious design, and the outside are often elaborately decorated with hammered patterns. Into this outer container is poured the coffee, but an inner core running the full height of the pot is filled with slow-burning coals, which keep the beverage piping hot. There's a ring-shaped lid for the coffee compartment, and one like a tower—complete with minaret-like finial—for the coal tube.

An elegant curved spout ensures the coffee exits in a delicate arc. Looking into the top of the pot, we can see the green-

## Operating GSM cellular phone service in Amman

THE JORDAN Mobile Telephone Services, (Fast Link) introduces the most up-to-date communication technologies represented by the new system of the mobile Phones (GSM) and the Motorola.



Since it was granted a government license in 1994, Fast Link was able to finish working in the first stage of cellular communications inside the kingdom spreading over Amman, Madaba, As salt, Az Zarga and Al Aqaba. Cellular stations were built in the mentioned areas to receive all waves easily and clearly. The system transfers the signal during the phone call from the closest cell found on one of the towers distributed within the working area to other cells without interruption or stop take into consideration the mountainous nature of Amman.

The team of the Jordan Company for Mobile Phones services Fast Link, nearly 150 employees, exerted all efforts to bring this project into existence. They took upon themselves to work constantly to finish the rest of then required stages according to the set program for this reason in its second and third stages. The cellular service in Jordan will help minimize the increasing demand on phone service as a result of the industrial and touristic development that Jordan is witnessing these days.

In accordance with the high demand on cellular phones the company expanded the net to cope with a greater number of Subscribers. The company also established a services centre working all day to answer any questions and offer help to subscribers. ■

## Abdoun Real Estate continues to expand

REAL ESTATE is a fast growing business in Jordan and Abdoun Real Estate is one of the country's successful and continuously expanding companies in this field.

"We played a big role in the Gulf War, by helping many of those who came from Kuwait to relocate in Amman," Mr Wael Al Ja'abari, General Manager of Abdoun Real Estate in Amman said.

Part of the work of Abdoun Real Estate is to help Embassies in Jordan to find venues for their relocation and to assist diplomatic missions in the country.

Mr Al Ja'abari said "we work with several big banks here in Jordan for the purposes of appraisal. We appraise the properties of people who apply for loans, and then when we give our evaluation, loans are then administered." "We have worked hard in the last five years to give the best service and we will keep doing it with honesty as our key to success."

"We are thinking of opening branches in Aqaba, and in the West Bank, most probably in Ramallah."

"Long term financing for real estate hardly exists in Jordan, I think the maximum is 10 years. We should implement the concept of mortgage which exists in the rest of the world, in this country. This would help the buyer to purchase real estate and the financing institute to make money," Mr Al Ja'abari said. ■

In Jordan

Continued from page 10

**28 April 1982**  
The third National Consultative Assembly is formed with 75 members under the speakership of Mr. Suleiman Arrar.

**9 January 1984**  
A Royal Decree is issued reinstating the dissolved ninth House of Deputies and introducing a new amendment to Article 73 of the Constitution whereby a revived House shall be regarded as a new House.

**18 January 1984**  
The election of seven deputies is held to replace deputies from West Bank constituencies whose seats became vacant as a result of death, separation or resignation through direct supplementary elections.

**27 March 1986**  
The House of Representatives approves a new electoral law, Law No. 22 of 1985. The law is widely criticized by opposition parties and trade union leaders.

**22 October 1987**  
A Royal Decree is issued extending the term of the 10th House of Representatives as of 17 January 1988.

**30 August 1988**  
A Royal Decree is issued dissolving the 10th House of Deputies which coincided with the administrative and legal disengagement from the West Bank which had been occupied since 1967.

**1 October 1988**  
A new Royal Decree is issued postponing the election of the 11th House of Deputies.

**16 April 1989**  
Provisional Law No. 14 of 1989 is issued amending Electoral Law No. 22 of 1986.

**17 April 1989**  
Large-scale disturbances and protests are staged in Maan in southern Jordan extending to neighboring districts in the following days. The disturbances and protests turned into an all-out popular political movement demanding the abrogation of Martial Law, allowing the freedom of party and political activities, free general elections and the combating of corruption.

**24 April 1989**  
The king dismisses the government of Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rifai and designates Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker to form a new government. The king requests the new government to prepare for new general elections at the end of 1989.

**8 August 1989**  
Provisional Law No. 23 of 1989 amending Electoral Law No. 22 and the electoral constituency in the House of Representatives is issued. It was the law according to which the 8 November 1989 elections took place.

**8 November 1989**  
The 11th House of Representatives' elections are held with the informal participation of existing parties. It is the first election since the June 1967 war and is restricted to the East Bank of Jordan.

**9 April 1990**  
A Royal Decree is issued forming a royal commission to draft the National Charter consisting of 60 members representing the various political, party and social institutions under the chairmanship of former Prime Minister Ahmed Obaidat.

**9 June 1991**  
The Jordanian National Charter is approved by a general

Continued on page 12

## Elena's, a distinctive name in fashion

ELENA'S BOUTIQUE in Jabel Luweibeh, was established in 1995, with the intention of being the first boutique in Jordan to specialize in European fashion for wedding dresses and accessories. However, "like all business organizations," says Mr Nader Nuqul, general manager of Elena's, "we are always looking for expansion."

The boutique has two floors, the first is for wedding gowns and accessories, formal, and cocktail dresses, and lingerie. The second floor, is for women's casual wear and shoes. There is also a men's department, which includes suits, jackets, shirts, ties, shoes.

The boutique offers designer range from fashion houses in Europe such as

Nina Ricci, Mila Schon, Christian Llinards, Iceberg, Byblos and Fendi.

"Our aim at Elena's boutique is to provide our clients with a wide range of choices," says Mr Nuqul.

"As we well know, Amman is a very limited market and we cannot afford to have every body wearing the same thing its not our image."

Elena's had a fashion show at the Hotel Inter-Continental last month. Mr Nuqul said this was very successful

"in the sense that we have managed to help some needy students, because all proceeds went to charity, and of course, it was good publicity for us."

The policy of Elena's is to have two fashion shows a year: one for the summer collection and one for the winter fashions. ■



## The Ahmed Issa Murad Co is ideal to shop around

AMMAN (Star)—Ahmed Issa Murad and Sons Co., Samsung agents in Jordan, held a press conference at Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel last week. The conference was attended by the representatives of the Samsung company in Jordan and Korea. The meeting was also attended by Mr Ahmed Issa Murad, chairman of the Board of Ahmed Issa Murad Co., General Manager Wael Murad, Manager of Planning and Marketing Saker Said, Export Manager of Samsung Electronics, Mr H.K. Kim and the Regional Manager of Samsung Mr Sang Kyung Park.

Mr Ahmed Issa Murad thanked the audience for coming and hoped to further the cooperation with Samsung. Wael Murad explained that the company is the only one accredited in Jordan by the Samsung Electronic Company. He added that Samsung Electronics is one of the biggest 14 companies in the world. The sales of Samsung electronics in 1995 amounted to \$80 billion a 24% increase over 1994. It owns 314 working offices operating outside Korea in 65 countries.

Mr Mussallam Tumeizi, the



executive manager of Ahmed Issa Murad Co., said "Today we introduce the most updated inventions of Samsung like Zoom's TV with its three models which have special features to distinguish them from the rest in the market:

- 100 channel programmable
- Zooming
- Child lock

Help message: This feature helps consumers in programming and directs their attention if there are mistakes in the process. It presents the instructions

during programming in Arabic and English.

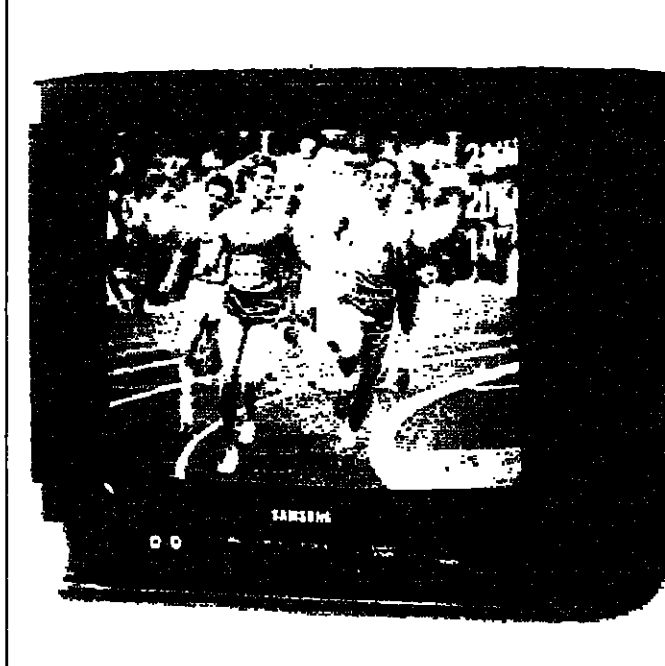
Refrigerators: The company developed a new technology for cooling inside the refrigerator to keep the food fresh for a long time. This is done through complete isolation and distribution of the cold air to all corners in the Refrigerator.

This new way depends on moving cold air in a circular movement to preserve it inside the refrigerator and the hot one outside. By following this technique, the new refrigerator holds no longer the cancelled corners used in the old-system refrigerators.

This leads to a kind of cooling four times faster than the normal one. It keeps food fresh longer than 3-5 times cooling found in other refrigerators. It also prevents air leak by using an isolating system that does not depend on screws to fix the caskey but on compression. All those qualities save energy at a 24% less than old models.

Washing Machines: Samsung washing machines are considered the most popular in Jordan and world markets.

Ahmed Issa Murad Co., always seeks quality at suitable prices making its products widely circulated and demanded. The company is the only one that has maintenance and service centers in Amman and the rest of the country. ■



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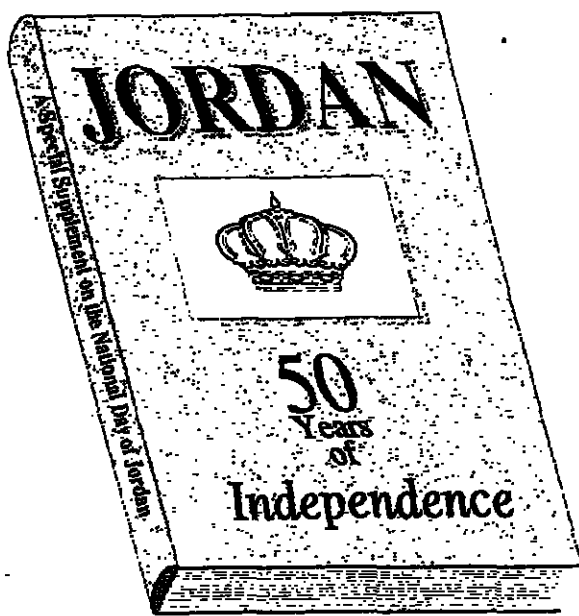
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Continued from page 10

congress held in the presence of King Hussein. The charter lays down the basis of political action in Jordan in accordance with the principles of pluralism, democracy and the separation of powers.

1 September 1992

The Law on Political Parties No. 22 for 1992 is issued in accordance with the Constitution. It is the first law on parties since the 1955 Parties' Law was suspended in April 1957. The new law provides the legal umbrella for the licensing of the already established political parties and the formation of new ones.

17 April 1993

The Press and Publications Law No. 10 for 1993 is issued. It is the first publications law to be issued after the 1973 Publications Law.

4 August 1993

A Royal Decree is issued dissolving the 11th House of Representatives.

17 August 1993

A new law is issued amending Electoral Law No. 22 of 1986. The law includes amendments to contain article to apply the principle of "one-person, one-vote." The amendment caused large-scale opposition by Islamists, Pan-Arabist and leftist parties and professional trade unions.

8 November 1993

Elections for the 12th House of Representatives are held with the participation of 19 out of 20 licensed parties up to that date.

26 October 1994

The Wadi Arab peace treaty between Jordan and Israel is signed.

17 November 1994

The Jordanian House of Representatives endorses the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty by 55 votes to 23.

**The Star**  
Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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## Hidden treasures uncovered at Central Bank

By Mohammad Adawiya  
Special to The Star

VISITORS TO the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) may have unwittingly been helping to keep one of Jordan's least-known attractions, a well kept secret. For hidden in the maze of corridors of the Central Bank lies hidden treasures which until recently have gone unnoticed.

Each day for over six years, the CBJ has been operating a museum displaying the various types of coins associated with Jordanian history. Through exhibits dating back to Greek times, the museum chronicles the various civilizations which inhabited Jordanian soil as well as

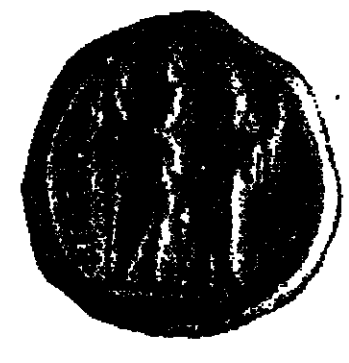
the coins they used.

The museum currently exhibits over 2,300 coins highlighting three major categories: coins struck in Jordanian mints, Nabataean, Decapolis and Early Umayyad; series of Islamic coins from the Arab-Byzantine period at the end of the first century of Hegira to the rise of the Ottoman Empire seven hundred years later; and Hashimite coins from Hijaz, Syria, Iraq and Jordanian coins issued by the Jordanian Currency Board (dated from 1949) and the Central Bank since its establishment.

Beginning with the fifth century Greek period, visitors will be taken on a journey spanning some 2,500 years as they tour Roman, Byzantine and early Islamic



An Islamic silver dirham struck during the Abbasid dynasty in Madinat al-Salam in the year 321A.H.



A Roman copper coin struck in (Philadelphia) Amman during the reign of Marcus Aurelius (161-180 A.D.)

coins, past Umayyad and Abbasid coins, up to present day circulating and commemorative Jordanian coins. Also included in the exhibition are the various Islamic coins of the Mongol Khans (1256-1336) and Ottoman (1517-1917) periods. Many very rare pieces, some of them unique specimens from a historic and religious point of view, are included. The Bank views the museum as an opportunity for locals and foreigners

alike to learn about the rich history of ancient and recent coins.

Recently the Central Bank opened a side entrance in an effort to build public awareness. It hopes that in addition to students, who comprise the largest single group of visitors, the entrance will attract transients from all walks of life.

The museum is located on the museum level and is currently open to the public daily (except Friday and Tuesday) from 09:00 until 14:00. ■

## Desert castles represent the mysteries of history

AS IF the wonders of nature are not enough, Jordan's deserts are dotted with ancient castles, farming estates, forms, hunting lodges and caravanserais. Widely varied in function, architectural style and creative embellishment, most were the domain of Omayyad princes in the first half of the 8th Century.

Qusair Amra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its interior

walls and ceilings are covered with lively frescoes, and two of the rooms are paved with colorful mosaics. The black basalt fort at Azraq, in continuous use since Roman times, was the headquarters of Lawrence of Arabia during the Arab Revolt. Also there is Qasr Al Hallabat, Qasr Kharrun and Qasr Mushatta.

For those fascinated by Crusader legends and lore, a

second group of castles beckons. The scenic King's Highway is an historic road stretching from Amman to Aqaba, and littered with the remains of Crusader forts and outposts. The most important among these are Kerak and Shobak.

Approaching Kerak, you pass first through Wadi Mujib, a precipitous canyon 1000 meters deep, guaranteed to set

the mood for your visit. The fort itself is a dark maze of stone-vaulted halls and endless passageways. The best preserved are underground, with access through a locked door. The castle in itself is more imposing than beautiful—though it is all the more impressive as an example of the Crusaders' architectural military genius. Each stronghold was built to be a day's journey from its neighbor. At night, a beacon was lit at each castle to signal to Jerusalem that it was safe.

Kerak's most famous occupant was Reynald de Chatillon, whose reputation for treachery, betrayal and brutality is unsurpassed.

When Baldwin II died, his son, a 13-year-old leper, sued for peace with Saladin. The Leper King, however, died without an heir, and in stepped de Chatillon, who succeeded in winning the hand of Stephanie, the wealthy widow of Kerak's assassinated regent. He promptly defied the truce with Saladin, who returned with a huge army, ready for war. De Chatillon and King Guy of Jerusalem led the Crusader forces and suffered a massive defeat. De Chatillon was taken prisoner and beheaded by Saladin, marking the beginning of the decline in Crusader fortunes.

The castle was enlarged with a new west wing added by the Ayyubids and Mamluks. A lonely reminder of former Crusader glory is Shobak Castle, less than an hour north of Petra. Once called "Mount Real," Shobak dates from the same turbulent period. It is perched on the side of a mountain, with a grand sweep of fruit trees below. The castle's exterior is impressive, with a forbidding gate and encircling walls three layers thick. Despite the precautions of its builder, the fortress fell

to Saladin only 75 years after it was raised. Inscriptions by his proud successors appear on the castle wall.

Much of the rugged desert terrain is an ideal habitat for wildlife. Sinai rose finches, desert larks and redstarts can be sighted in Rum, and sapphire-blue kingfishers in Hammamat Ma'in. The mountain gazelle, hyena, fox and ibex are still common in the Wadi Araba, while the Shaumari Reserve is breeding and releasing into the wild the once-plentiful Arabian oryx, the ostrich and the Syrian wild ass. ■



**Accent**

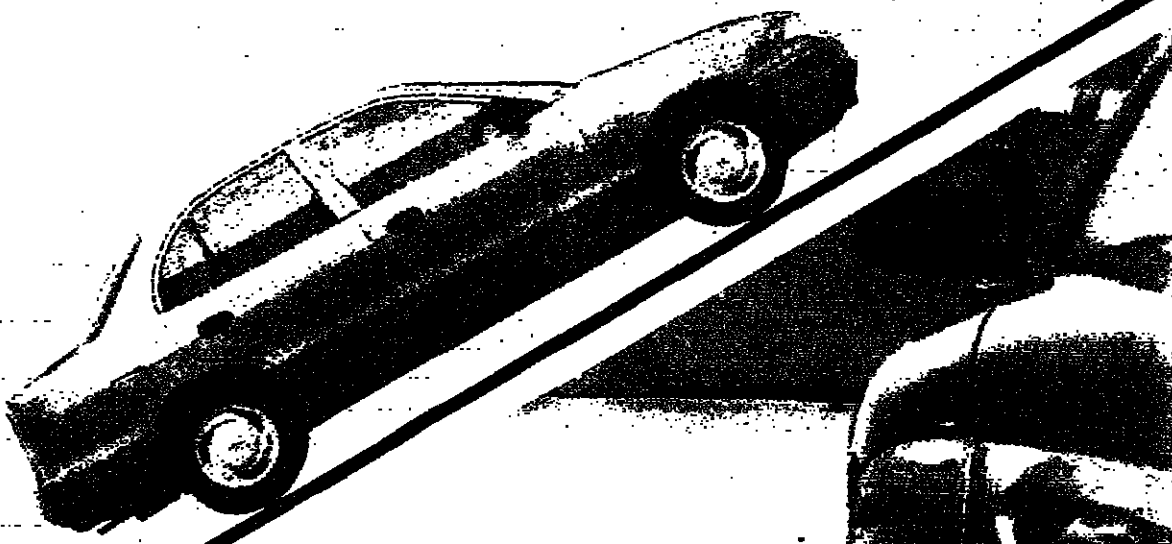
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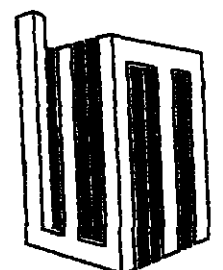
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**Beitna**

Hamdan Kanafani

Special to The Star

SHAD BIN Sulayman from the United Arab Emirates, won the 14th International Rally '96.

It was organized by the Automobile Club of Jordan (ACJ) and it was the first of the FIA Middle East Championship.

A team from the King Abdullah Sports City in Shmeisani, Amman, won the race.

The race included four

special stages.

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# A friend of the Arabs and champion of Palestinian rights

By Eyad Ammari  
Special to the Star

SHE WAS probably the best friend the Palestinians and Arabs ever had in the West, during the sixties. Befittingly, she was buried in an interfaith funeral at the Umm El Nar Cemetery in Abu Dhabi. Margaret McKay had a long career in politics and was a person that was willing to rebel in order to change things for the better.

Born in Lancashire to a landowners family, she left school at the age 14. She started working as a clerk at the local *Accrington Observer* newspaper. At age 16, she, with her step-father, mother, brothers moved to New Bedford, Mass, in the United States; the trip would later change her life forever. She had two jobs but still managed to go to art school in the evening. Experiencing a totally free democratic and open life, she felt dismayed and became very disturbed when her mother decided that they would move back to England.

McKay spent the next 43 years immersed in politics, working for labor's and humanitarian rights. She first es-

poused the socialist ideology but soon after that became disillusioned by it. She was to be disillusioned again, specifically by the democratic system of the United Kingdom that couldn't manage to provide a wide platform for her opinions.

In 1953 McKay wrote an autobiography titled *Generation in Revolt*. She talked about the heritage of her lineage's participation in politics. In 1929, and 22 years old, she led the Bradford hunger march of the textile workers to London. During the World War II, she organized the Civil Service Clerical Association to persuade workers to do whatever is possible to win the war.

A year later, she wrote *Women in Trade Union History* after being appointed Chief Woman Officer of the Trade Union Congress in 1951. Prior to that, she held the same position at the Transport and General Workers Union. She was also responsible for the settlement of the Polish and German workers after the second world war.

Her involvement in the Palestinian cause and the Arab world came after a visit to Iran in 1963, shortly after being

elected as the Labour Member of Parliament for Clapham. Her trip to Iran was by appointment. Realizing her career in the British Trade Union Congress, she represented Britain at the United Nations Status of Women Commission.

On her trip, she met many Arab women who told her about the unrightful occupation of Palestinian territories by the Israelis and the status of the refugees and displaced Palestinians. She was unaware of the specific details of the historical events that took place and had shared the British public's view at the time. Being moved by what she saw while visiting the camps of refugees in Jordan, she went back to England and started the Anglo-Jordan Association, a parliamentary group.

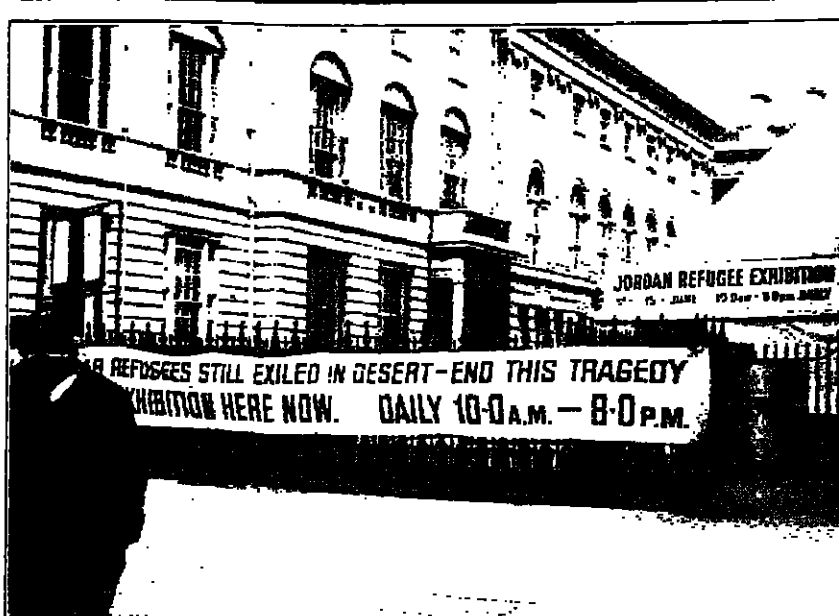
McKay met Sheikh Zayed of Abu Dhabi having prepared a reception for him. She showed him some of the pictures from the refugee camps and parts of shrapnel bombs taken out of civilians' bodies. The Sheikh was moved and worked with McKay to try and create a greater awareness of the plight of the Palestinians.

Sheikh Zayed and McKay founded

the Abu Dhabi Campaign Center and presented an exhibition, films and photographs of the refugees in Jordan. The exhibition was held in Piccadilly, London and stirred much controversy. Because of her work, she met severe opposition from pro-Zionist movements in Britain. She was the subject to smears as several newspapers called her anti-Semitic, and tied her to the anti-Semitism of fascist Germany.

She faced up to opposition. McKay wanted to tell the world that Arabs were Semites and that she only wanted to tell people about the refugee camps. The smear campaigns of the Zionists didn't stop McKay from pursuing what she started. She wanted to start a cultural and information center that would show what happened to the Palestinians, write about them, and be a center for Arab studies. The project finally collapsed when she, her daughter and her grandson had to leave England. She had been receiving death threats and ignored them. But later, she became frightened when the threats were extended to her daughter and grandson.

The Arab and Islamic world offered



The Jordan Refugee Exhibition at London's Piccadilly in 1968

them refuge. She eventually settled in Abu Dhabi, where Sheikh Zayed provided for her accommodation much the same as he did for the rest of his people, as was in the time-honored Arab Bedouin tradition. Her daughter and grandson took refuge in Jordan. McKay was to be disillusioned for the last time having become a refugee herself.

In Abu Dhabi, McKay, 63 years old having quit her parliamentary career, turned to writing political articles, books and historical volumes. She also helped with what she could in building

the state as the British were pulling out. As a way of showing her gratitude to the hospitality of Abu Dhabi, she wrote *Middle Eastern Legacy: A Calendar: 30,000 Years of Middle Eastern History* (which is to be released). Her books include *Timeless Arabia*, *Electronic Arabia*, and *Gulf Saga* (which is to be released).

McKay was an MP in the British government 1965-1970. She passed away in Abu Dhabi on March 1, at the age 89.

## Acupuncture Method of relieving tension

By Hamdan Al Hajj  
Special to The Star

ACUPUNCTURE IS an ancient art. While sticking to its basic principles, it has developed different theories through its centuries-old evolution. The latest "therapeutic functional electric stimulation" method is well known in the fields of physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

Dr. Nabil El Madi, director-general of the Chinese Medical Center, says that the Chinese have developed a highly effective method.

Acupoints are stimulated by electric poles placed on the points themselves (called in "Western medicine" as "Motor Points") without using needles. The apparatus emits a DC current which is similar to a battery current and therefore safe and harmless, says Dr. El Madi.

Pulses emitted by the apparatus at its poles are strong, but painless and are controllable while affecting the nerve in question.

The apparatuses do the work that is carried out by needles. It's an extremely effective physio-electric treatment.

About 100,000 muscular relaxation-contraction movements per hour are achieved through this method.

These apparatuses have been developed for the treatment of Cerebral Palsy, hemiplegia, and other diseases.

These sessions are very beneficial to patients says Dr. El Madi and include strengthening muscles, reducing the severity of muscular tension, lengthening muscles and their tendons, and thereby lessening the deformation of joints. These methods also help to increase the power of electric conduction in nerves and the brain to find an alternative way for flashing inhibitory impulses through undamaged nerves or energy

channels. This method is effective to Cerebral Palsy and Hemiplegia.

■ Cerebral Palsy is a physical handicap that affects children caused by brain damage.

Such causes paralysis in one limb or more, and it is of various kinds; Congenital, hereditary, damage caused during or after delivery (by oxygen insufficiency, meningitis, car accidents, etc).

■ Hemiplegia is a physical handicap that affects adults and caused by a brain-thrombosis, accidents, brain-bleeding, etc.

Dr. El Madi, a member of the Chinese Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), explains that it is not easy for anyone to predict what may happen to a patient; he may remain bed-ridden, or may automatically recover, completely or partially.

But how could a patient who suffers from a brain-thrombus, an accident, or Cerebral Palsy improve automatically while other cerebral palsy patients, with similar problems, could not, he asks?

Improvement in health depends on many factors says Dr. El Madi. These include:

■ Brain cells have a propensity to do the job of neighboring damaged cells, or that of their counterparts in the other half of the brain, the younger the patient is, the greater the chances for this.

■ The brain sends impulses to the nervous and muscular systems, and when they do not reach their destination, it can be concluded that they are damaged causing spastic paralysis. The brain then attempts to discover another path through the nervous system by energy channels for flashing the signals. It succeeds in some cases and fails in others.

■ The brain and the nervous

systems are still shrouded in secrecy. This made treatment more difficult, and prompted physicians to look for other ways and means of diagnosis and treatment.

On physiotherapy and functional rehabilitation, Dr. El Madi said that this is a set of physical treatment that lasts from two to four hours. It is designed to:

■ Increase the body's suppleness and improve blood circulation.

■ Respiratory therapy to improve the process of breathing.

■ For motor rehabilitation. It represents an integrated scheme for treatment of all degrees of disability.

■ For functional rehabilitation, which aims to train the patient to perform an integral activity and keep it under control.

■ For pseudo-bulbar Palsy treatment! When the brain areas controlling the muscles of the pharynx and the tongue are damaged, the patient may lose the ability to talk—the loss may be partial or complete, accompanied by difficulty in swallowing.

Dr. El Madi said that this program is one of the best in the world, for it combines various methods, and has no adverse effect on medicines taken like: anticoagulants, hypoglycemic and hypotensive drugs.

Moreover, it improves the functioning of the body systems and corrects any malfunctions resulting from lack of



movement, nervous system, respiratory system, digestive system and blood circulation.

Another distinctive feature of this method is that it can be applied soon after the case has stabilized or at any time after its occurrence, even after many years.

Treatment is carried out daily and may take a long or a short time, depending on the nature of the case.

Dr. El Madi says that the human body moves by self-generated energy kindled by food and drink. This energy is of different kinds: thermal, magnetic, kinetic, chemical, etc.

Of the kind of energy manipulated by doctors in diagnosing certain cases are: electric energy, magnetic and electro magnetic waves which pass through the body.

He adds that doctors reveal the strength and direction of these waves through E.C.G./E.E.G. while this energy, like all other forms of body-energy, has a mastery system.

Most doctors who use this energy are unable to explain or

detail its source, path, function, transformation or end; for there is no such explanation or detailed description of this energy in Western sciences, he continues.

The Chinese knew of the body-energy 4000 years ago, described its forms and gave it names taken from Chinese traditional medicine. They also described its paths and the points where it could be controlled, and knew that of these paths there are 12 main channels and eight secondary ones. The latter branch out into smaller and smaller channels forming a network that connects the brain with the rest of the body, the lower part with the upper, and the internal with the external. This network is controlled by 361 main acupoints in each half of the body.

Modern science has confirmed the existence of these physiological channels. They constitute a chain of specialized cells whose electric resistance is lower than that of neighboring cells, thereby allowing electro-magnetic waves to pass from and to the brain and other organs, carrying millions of messages, each message has its own code. The cells, as a whole, constitute the most precise and wonderful wireless system that could ever exist, complementing the communication system (the nervous system) and the chemical communication system (the blood) so "blessed the God, the best of creators!" Holy Koran.

Most human diseases can be treated by acupuncture, with varying degrees of effectiveness—success being dependent on the nature of the disease, the patient and his immunity, and the skills of the physician. ■

## Muslims have mixed views about changes in Indian government

By John-Thor Dahlburg  
LA Times-Washington Post  
News Service

NEW DELHI, India—As thousands of Muslims from India's capital hurried through the portals of their country's most magnificent mosque, some were serene and others, pensive, about what this week's change in government means for them.

The previous day, the "safar" wave of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party carried veteran BJP politician Atal Behari Vajpayee into the prime minister's chair.

An avowedly Hindu party that champions "one nation, one people, one culture" had taken charge of the world's largest Muslim minority community.

Paradoxically, some Muslims said they were reassured.

"It's better that they're in power. Now they won't resort to the kind of fanaticism they used to. They'll be saner, and won't tear down any more mosques," said Abid Mirza, 24, who hawks costume jewelry in the bazaars of Old Delhi.

But for Abdul Rahim, 45, a busy spice merchant and father of three children, recent events were only another trial for India's Muslims, estimated by their leaders to number as many as 125 million. In the past, Rahim said, he and other followers of the Koran in India were tricked and betrayed for their votes too many times by the longtime ruling Congress (I) Party.

And now, Rahim complained, India has a ruling party whose agenda calls for the abolition of special marriage, divorce and property laws applying to Muslims. For Muslims, he said, the BJP's worst deed was its campaign of religious-driven agitation that culminated, in December 1992, in the destruction by thousands of Hindu marchers of a mosque in the town of Ayodhya, said to lie on the site where Ram, the god-king of ancient Indian history, was born.

Hindu-Muslim violence broke out in several Indian cities after the mosque was torn down and more than 2,500 people, mostly Muslims, lost their lives.

"Their policies are against us," Rahim said of India's new leaders. "But we will not run away. We will stand fast and face up to any challenge."

Other Muslims concluded that things are not as bad as that. Any menace from a BJP government may be short-lived, they said, since the party has not yet rallied a parliamentary majority behind it and has only until May 31 to do so.

"All this may simply not last," mused S.R. Haider, an interpreter at Jama Masjid, the 17th-century mosque, as its marble-paved courtyard, capable of accommodating 20,000 people, filled with barefoot Muslim men awaiting the call to prayer.

Many Muslim intellectuals and leaders believe the harsh realities of power will make the BJP behave differently in office.

"This Hindutva (Hinduism) by the BJP was to tempt voters, the majority of whom are illiterate and easily swayed by their passions," said Maulana Wahiduddin Khan, 74, an Islamic scholar in New Delhi. "Once they come into power, they will be just like a Congress government."

The respect commanded by Vajpayee, who comes from the BJP's moderate wing, also reassured Muslims, as did his record as Indian foreign minister during the first non-Congress government in 1977-79.

"When Vajpayee was external affairs minister, there were easier contacts with Pakistan, and it was easier to go to and fro," said Zulfikar Ahmed, 23, who has an uncle in Karachi, Pakistan.

Vajpayee's televised assurances last week that building Hindu temples at disputed sites is not a top priority for the BJP also eased Muslims' anxieties.

The prime minister has assured Indians that his government will govern for all, and has included a Muslim in his cabinet. But some Indians worry that if the new government collapses, it might boomerang on Muslims.

Bal Thackeray, leader of a hard-line party in the BJP coalition, had threatened "anarchy" if the BJP wasn't chosen to form India's government. "He also means he will sponsor violence if the BJP falls at the end of this month by failing to get a vote of confidence," said D.K. Oza, former chief election officer of Tamil Nadu state, in a Friday newspaper column. ■

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## Bin Sulayyem wins 14th Jordan International Rally '96

### Another great year for racing

By Musallam Kanafani  
Special to the Star

MOHAMMAD BIN Sulayyem, the driver from the United Arab Emirates, won the 14th Jordan International Rally '96.

The rally was organized by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) and it was the second round of the FIA Middle East Championship. A two-day event, it began last Thursday from the King Abdullah Gardens in Shmeisani.

HRH Prince Faisal gave the starting signal.

The first day included four

special stages at a total of 241 Kilometers. Four Jordanian competitors pulled out on the first day. These include Bashar Bustami, Faris Bustami, Tony Khalusi, and Asem Aref.

France's Reni Samuel, Qatar's Naser Kalifa Al Attiyah and Bahrain's Jaseem Al Fardan

also pulled out.

Eighteen cars out of 27 completed the first leg on the first day.

Prince Faisal monitored the events by a helicopter over the desert.

HRH Prince Abdullah, who was absent from the rally for the last eight years, participated driving Bin Sulayyem's former car. "I was very kindly offered a car by my good friend Mohammed Bin Sulayyem," he told *The Star*.

The second day of the rally started early at 7 am from the Forte Grand. It was led by Prince Abdullah and covered 617 kilometers including 243 kilometers of special stages.

More participants quit the second day of the rally. Prince

Abdallah crashed in a trench, but he was not harmed. He started well on the first day, coming fourth overall.

"The reason for my participation was to support the Jordanian drivers and to rally in general. I've had lots of fun, and it is nice to see people again and see old friends," the Prince told *The Star*.

Mr. Bader Rashid, press Officer of the RACJ and member of the organizing Committee for the Jordan International Rally said it is really a great pity that Prince Abdullah had to retire in the beginning because of problems he encountered during the race, especially after his marvelous performance.

The best hopeful, Bashar Bustami had to retire on the first day. More casualties occurred on the second day. The two brothers Ahmad and Mohammed Al Daoud retired because of mechanical problems. Theophanides Panayiotis of Cyprus and Jordan's Zeid Asfour also retired. This left the Jordanian Marouf Abu Samra in the race.

Mohammad Bin Sulayyem with co-driver Ronan Morgan, driving a Ford Escort Cosworth, was an overall winner with an overall time of 2 hours 34.45 minutes. Saudi's Arabia Abdullah Bakhashah and Irish

co-driver Bobby Willis, driving a Toyota Celica GT4 came second at 2 hours 35.25 minutes. Andreas Tsoulifas of Cyprus came third in 2 hours 50.42 minutes.

Jordan's Marouf Abu Samra came in fourth place, and first on the Jordanian team.

"Last year I was third overall but this year there was more competition, it was very hard for me stay in the fourth place especially on the first day, but thank god everything went right," he told *The Star*.

"I could have pressed to come in third place, but it would have meant risking the car and I didn't want to do that," he added.

The award ceremony was held on Saturday at the Forte Grand Hotel where Prince Faisal, chairman of the Motor Sport Committee handed the trophies to the winners. The ceremony was attended by John Quenby who was the observer for the Jordan Rally. Mr. Quenby, who is a member of the FIA rally commission and United Kingdom member on the FIA World Motor Sport Council, was accompanied by Wilhelm Lyding, the president of the German Motor Sports Federation. The ceremony was also attended by the local and the international media and

big crowd of rally fans.

HRH Prince Faisal told *The Star* "I am happy to say that the organization again went very well." He praised the marshals, and the drivers for what he called their excellent performance.

"We have some excellent drivers. I think Marouf Abu Samra is a shining example since he has matured a lot in recent years, and his driving was excellent when he led the group N for this rally with some pretty safe competition, but was also not far from group A which I think is an indication of how good a driver he is," the Prince said. "We've got some other good drivers, and I think the quality we've got in Jordan again is getting better and better and I hope in the future some of the Jordanian major sponsors would actually take a closer look at some of these drivers and give them the support, he added. "Rally driving is not, unfortunately, a cheap sport," Prince Faisal continued.

About the future, Prince Abdullah said "I think if I am entering, it's going to be just for supporting the sport. I don't think I would be competing on a regular basis. I don't have the time, and I think that I should



HRH Prince Faisal with Bin Sulayyem and Ronan Morgan.

give a chance to local Jordanians to do the good work that they've been doing in the last couple of years."

About the Dubai International Rally, the Prince said "I am looking forward to it, maybe with my good friend Mohammad Bin Sulayyem, we might team up again soon. I enjoy his

company, and I enjoy even more racing alongside him."

Mr. Hasan Ala'a Eddin, the rally office manager at RACJ and clerk of the course said, "it was a very successful rally."

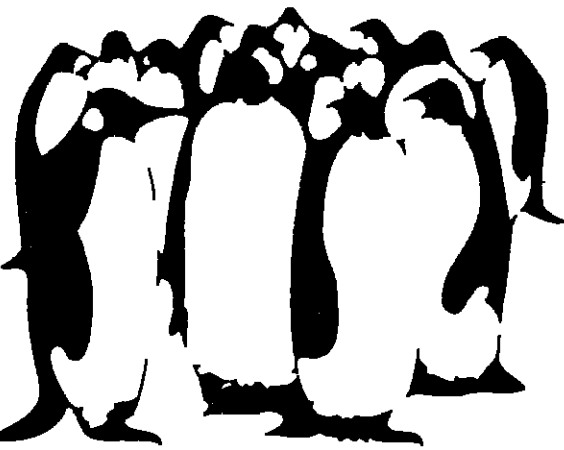
"Prince Abdullah's participation was a great boost for motor sport in Jordan," Mr. Ala'a Eddin said. ■



Prince Faisal in his chopper overlooking Ahmad Al Daoud in his car



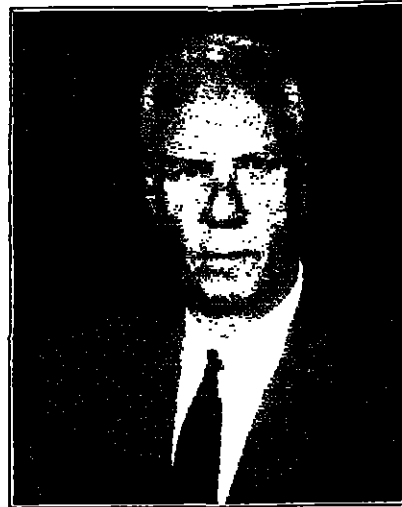
## AROUND TOWN



## A one man show by Nawash

After staying in France for a while, Ahmad Nawash, a Jordanian painter, has arrived in Amman to prepare for a personal exhibition. The exhibition will be held on Monday 27 June at the painters' association in Jabal Luweibdeh. On display are 25 new works.

Nawash is a Jordanian painter who depicts the tragedies that occurred in this part of the world. Most of his works, though concerned with national issues, are drawn from his own perspective. Nawash has been active in the art scene in France. He held a personal exhibition in one of the most important showrooms in the Latin district of Paris. The exhibition which was held under the patronage of Fawaz Sharaf, Jordan's ambassador to France, was a great success.



## Zubia reserve

## Modern survival of nature

By Munther Hamdan  
Special to The Star

Zubia is a place of imagination, a forgotten natural beauty. The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) organized a journey to the Zubia reserve in Ajloun. It was designed to acquaint us with the nature of activities carried out by the society to save this reserve.

The Zubia reserve was established in 1985 on a 23,000 dunums. The area which is 1200 meters above sea level is smothered with different kinds of plants and trees, each requiring certain environmental conditions. There are pine trees, oak trees, sumac, nabk, and maple.

The name Zubia dates back to the Greek era. The two most interesting things in the village are the nettle tree and the remains of an old church. The nettle tree, in Arabic called Al Mees, is rare in Jordan and the Middle East. Its supple wood was most appropriate for making bows.

At a site overlooking Bur-kush mountain lies the ruins of an old church that dates back to the eighth century BC but which was later converted into a shrine under the Ottomans. Superstitious people used to bring their patients to let them hang a piece of textile on the walls of the shrine to be cured from illnesses.

The society publicizes places like Zubia in order to

encourage tourism," said Tarek Bani Yaseen from the heritage committee at the RSCN.

The fenced reserve holds roe deer, wild boars and snakes. "Roe deer underwent a reintroduction program" Mahmood Al Doomy, manager of the reserve, told



The reserve started with only three roe deer and it now has 13. "Many of them died earlier because of diarrhoea, snakebites and pneumonia. In order to prevent overgrazing we keep feeding them."

Another important aspect which the society is working to achieve is "environmental tourism." In order to attract people to come to such places, the society provides all the facilities needed for tourists to spend some days in the reserve. The Global Environmental Fund (GEF), a World Bank financed program has successfully financed the Dana reserve and again, it is applied to Zubia. The program also takes into consideration the socio-economic dimension in the reserve. As a result, the society has striven to guarantee sources of income for the Dana inhabitants to encourage them to stay on the land.

Since it was established in 1966, the RSCN has successfully set up five reserves. Besides Zubia, there are Al Mujib, Dana, Al Shomari and Al Azraq. The society is the first of its kind in the Middle East. It consists of different departments like the administrative department, research, environmental awareness and public relations. The latter is the most important since it seeks to attract the largest possible number of members to preserve nature.

## New issue of Amman on newsstands

The latest issue of *Amman*, the Arabic cultural magazine published by the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), is on the newsstands. The monthly covers culture, arts and social issues.

The latest issue contains interesting cultural topics. While the main feature article is on the Lebanese city of 'Saidon, with all its historical and cultural attributes, the magazine is full of interesting stories and interviews with leading Arab personalities on the Arab cultural scene.

An interview with the Iraqi poet Ali Ja'far Al Allak throws light on the poet's experience and creativity. There is also a critique of the renowned novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez's latest novel, *Of Love and Other Demons*.

The issue followed up the cultural activities in Amman, the most important of which was the International Forum for the Independent Theater Troupes sponsored by GAM.

## Aeromexico bans smoking

Effective 1st June Aeromexico will prohibit smoking on all of its domestic services lasting up to 90 minutes as announced by José Robles, vice president-administration of the Mexican carrier.

An agreement was signed today by the airline with Mexico's Health, Communications and Transportation Secretariat, and it also includes all carriers operating in Mexico. The measure follows an initiative taken by Mexico city's government in 1990.

The new non-smoking policy will affect most of Aeromexico's domestic flights, except for such services as Guadalajara-Tijuana Mexico City-Cancun and a few others. As far as international services are concerned, there have been no specific guidelines as to when would smoking prohibitions be implemented systemwide, although the carrier has been enforcing such prohibitions on services between Mexico City and Atlanta, Dallas's Fort Worth and Orlando since it began operations under a code-sharing arrangement with Delta Airlines, a completely non-smoking airline. Aeromexico expects to gather information through its recently created Customer Service Center in Mexico City which operates 24 hours a day and where the airline receives all kinds of comments from its customer. Depending on the reactions of passengers flying on domestic routes, Aeromexico will decide soon whether it will extend the ban on smoking to its international operations to the US, South America and Europe or not.

## A piano recital at RCC

Under the patronage of Their Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia, a piano recital by Mrs Oksana Musleh, will be held in the Royal Cultural Center, on 28 May, at 8 pm.

Mrs Musleh, who is from Ukraine, has been appointed as piano teacher in the "Freddy for Music" center. Oksana obtained her Master's degree in piano from the Donetsk State Conservatory and has held many concerts in Ukraine and Russia since 1984. She is performing pieces for Mozart, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and Brahms.

## OVERHEARD AT TURINO..

TURINO has started distributing a new promotion leaflet detailing the New Summer menu. Three special line menus have been created for the new season with an exciting variety of first class food, using top quality ingredients offered at affordable prices.

Each of the three menus starts with a selection of mezza and your choice of salad.

MAIN DISHES

I. Our PASTA CARNIVAL features your choice of Italian and Southern Mediterranean pasta cuisine with a variety of exquisite sauces.

II. The SKEWER LINE menu consists of your choice of Oriental, Turkish or Curry skewers served with either rice or French fries.

III. For those who prefer seafood TURINO offers a very exclusive yet health-oriented menu which it calls the Shrimp and Seafood Line- your meat alternative. Your choice of Hamour Provincial, Grilled or fried OR Grilled Shrimps both served with sauteed vegetables.

TURINO guarantees that the chef uses the highest quality ingredients absolutely for all menu items. The important point to mention here is the all-inclusive prices for our guests this Summer.

PASTA CARNIVAL JD 10  
SKEWER LINE JD 12  
SEAFOOD & SHRIMP JD 13

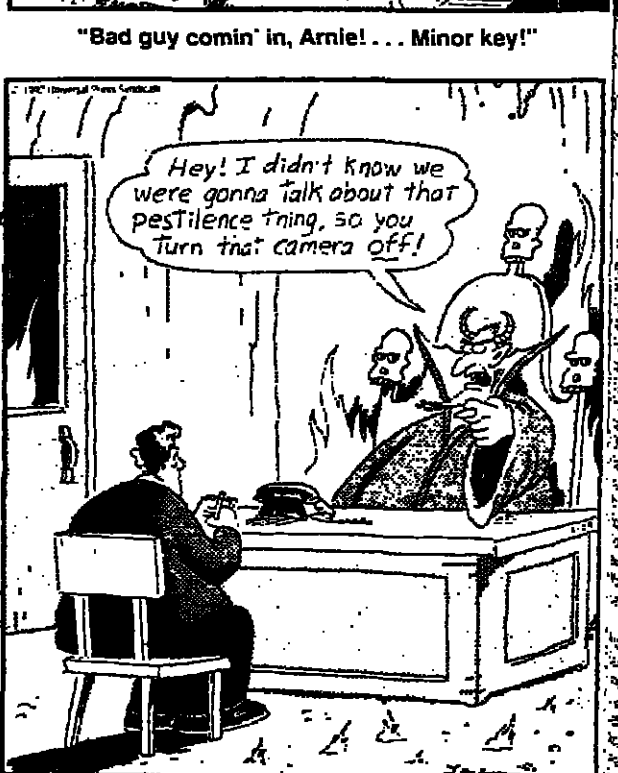
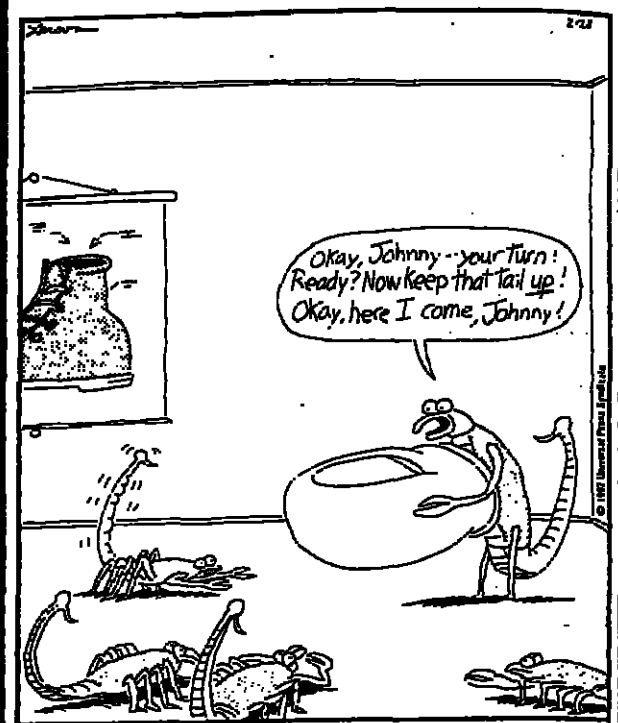
All inclusive of taxes and service charges. Soft drinks are included. (We understand that you may get away with a glass of wine instead. Try it!)

The atmosphere of Turino is absolutely fabulous, trendy although classic in interior. The specially selected high quality repro-music is ethnic Mediterranean and offers charming varieties from famous singers. For visitors to Jordan, Turino is tucked round the main square Sweitieh on the southern side of 6th Circle.

Turino. Passion for Fun! Dial Now-863944

## THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



Mike Wallace interviews the Devil

## AGENDA

Exhibitions 12 June.

An exhibition entitled *From Picasso to our Present Days* from the collection of Museo del Grabado Español Contemporaneo-Marbella at Darat al Funun, continues till 6 June.

An exhibition entitled *Christophe besse*, at The French Cultural Center, opening on Sunday continues till 27 June.

The recent works of the artist Ayyad al Nimer at Darat al Funun, continues till 28 May.

Films

Luis Gordillo, at Darat al Funun, Thursday 23 May at 6:00 pm.

Young Man With a Horn, at The American Center, Thursday 23 May at 5pm.

La reine margot, at The French Cultural Center, Monday 27 May at 8 pm.

Music

Classical Spanish Music, at Darat al Funun, Tuesday 28 May.

## MUSIC PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

3-4:30 pm Patch

4-5:30 pm The Stars

5-6:30 pm Flash

6-7:30 pm French Programs

7-8:30 pm News Headlines

8-9:30 pm News About Jordan

9-10:30 pm Good Vibrations

10-11:30 pm Allie Troupe to Folk

11-12:30 pm News

12-1:30 pm News at Ten

1-2:30 pm The Bold and the

3-4:30 pm Feature Film: Coun-

5-6:30 pm Jessica Lange and

7-8:30 pm

8-9:30 pm

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12-1:30 pm

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11-12:30 pm

## Lionhearts' culture on 50th anniversary

By Eyad Ammari  
Special to The Star

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the independence of Jordan and the end of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty, the British Embassy in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry (UK), British Airways, the British Council and Forte Grand, are presenting *Absolutely British*. It is a week of British culture, arts and products displayed and presented at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman, starting on 14 June.

On the opening night, the Derek Nimo Players will present *The Best of British West End Musicals* at a seated dinner. On the following two nights, the Derek Nimo Players will perform a play titled *Bedside Manners* starring John Inman, who appears in the TV show *Are You Being Served*, playing currently on Jordan Television.

On 17-18 June, the Moptops "Beales" will perform two concerts. On 20 June, Alan Shaxon, an illusionist and a magician will perform *An Evening of Magic*. Shaxon appeared by Royal Command at Buckingham Palace on four occasions, and watched by millions on TV stations from Sydney to Las Vegas. He was called "one of the top 10 after-dinner acts in the world" by *Abracadabra*, the magicians' magazine.

On 21 June, the Hiss & Boo Theater

performs a play, starring Ruth Maddoc, at a seated dinner. Founded in 1977 by actor and producer Ian Liston, the company presented a variety of shows, ranging from plays, children shows, music, to comedy. They have recently performed in Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

The Hiss & Boo also produced plays and musicals in London's West End, including plays like *Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband*, *Corpus* and award winning *Groucho: A Life In Revue*. Double Act by Gerald Moon.

Ruth Maddoc appeared in famous plays such as *Phantom of the Opera*, *Steel Magnolias*, *A Taste of Honey*, and *Gypsy*. She starred as Rose in the latter one and as Gladys Pugh in the comedy series *Hi Di Hi*. She appeared in films including *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Prince and the Pauper* and *Under Milk Wood*. She recently played the opposite to Sir Harry Secombe in the *Pickwick Papers* in the Christmas 1995/96 season.

Throughout the entire week, the Mad Dog Jazz Club, Noel Coward Cabaret, the Caspian String Quartet, Cartoonist, One Man Band, and Close Up Magic will be performing gigs at the Forte Grand pub Jugglers.

The Caspian String Quartet, which includes two Violins, a Viola and a Cello, is a new band, that was formed in 1994. They have a versatile repertoire including pieces

from shows, salon music, music hall and contemporary music.

Vic Ellis, of the One Man Band, is a unique performer who dances to his songs, and performs from a repertoire of traditional tunes, comic songs and popular favorites.

Replicas of the British Crown Jewels will be displayed throughout the week. They will be guarded by a Beefeater, the traditional guard of the Royal Palaces, wearing the famous costume of the British guards.

One of the most important cultural events during the week is the exhibition of original works by the artist David Roberts on 20 June, and which lasts till 22 June. Roberts is considered an orientalist. He produced a famous series of very detailed paintings about the Middle East.

Also, throughout the week, British food will be served. The food is shipped directly from Harrods in London, which are renowned for their excellent food and goods.

On May 25, 1946, Jordan obtained full independence as the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty expired. On 22 June of the same year, Sir Alec Kirkbride, who was supervising the implementation of the treaty, presented his credentials to HM King Abdullah to become the first British Ambassador (then titled the Minister of Plenipotentiary).

## Arab cartoonists harp back to their golden age

By Munther Hamdan  
Special to The Star

Since the departure of the renowned Palestinian cartoonist Najee Al Ali, hardly anybody emerged to take his place. But still, the Arab world does have other creative cartoonists whose drawings have their own characteristics. Cartoons should be viewed seriously just like any art form.

Arab cartoonists in the past were given much attention. They had one body, the now defunct Arab Cartoonists Union. There, they used to meet and discuss their problems and concerns and to

keep abreast of the developments in the Arab World. The political situation in the past contributed to much of this solidarity among cartoonists. But disillusion set in after the 1967 War when the Arab Cartoonists Union was dismantled soon after.

Today cartoonists are thinking of reviving the old days. They met last week in Amman to discuss the possibility of restoring the Arab Cartoonists Union. They included such names as George Bahjouri, Jalal Al Rifai, and Juma Farahat and emphasized that cartoons are no longer used to "decorate" newspapers but are part and

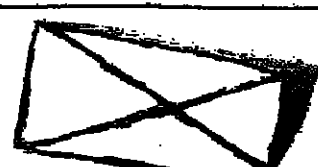
parcel of every day news.

As such they are asking for financial support to enable them to build the headquarters of the Union. One of the objectives of the meeting was to issue a yearly book to collect the works of artists and giving a biographical glimpse about each one of them. An annual conference for cartoonists is important to create the basis for more production and creativity in future, it is argued.

The participants all agreed that their work is highly dependent on the extension of democracy and freedom in the region as that exists in other countries of the world.

Participants said it was important to have this art taught at universities. As they see it, teachers are required to give their students the bases from which they can develop their own styles and avoid imitation.

The Arab cartoonists, who are visiting Amman to participate in a television program, *Alkhar and Alkar*, held an exhibition at Gallery Alia last week. Cartoonists were George Bahjouri, Mustafa Hussein, Juma Farahat, Abd El Aziz Taj, Najee Kamel, Ali Al Kharij and Jalal al Rifai.









# Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

## L'Irak autorisé à exporter du pétrole

● L'Onu et l'Irak ont signé lundi un accord de mise en œuvre de la formule «pétrole contre nourriture» qui va permettre à Bagdad d'exporter du brut pour la première fois depuis 1990.

L'Irak est autorisé dans le cadre de la résolution 986 à exporter du pétrole à hauteur de d'un milliard de dollars tous les trois mois pour pouvoir acheter de la nourriture et des médicaments à sa population exsangue après cinq ans et demi d'embargo.

Mais sur cette somme, 300 millions sont destinés à une commission de compensation des Nations-Unies chargée des dédommagements après l'invasion du Koweït par l'Irak. Environ 130 à 150 millions de dollars des 700 millions restants sont destinés aux Kurdes du nord de l'Irak.

Le reste est utilisé pour régler les salaires de divers fonctionnaires de l'Onu appartenant à la commission spéciale chargée de vérifier le respect par l'Irak des résolutions des Nations-Unies sur son désarmement.

Au total, les 3 millions de Kurdes devraient donc bénéficier d'un demi-dollar par jour tandis que chacun des 17 millions qui habitent le reste du pays recevront 32 cents.



## Anniversaire

# La Jordanie fête un demi-siècle d'indépendance

Le 25 mai 1946, le royaume hachémite de Jordanie voyait le jour et l'émir Abdallah était couronné roi dans sa capitale, Amman. En cinquante ans, ce petit Etat a résisté à de nombreuses crises régionales pour préserver son indépendance. Un nouveau défi s'impose aujourd'hui à lui, cette fois beaucoup plus économique que politique.

**L'histoire** contemporaine de la Jordanie s'est fondée sur une succession d'éléments fragilisant le royaume créé en 1946, et d'événements contribuant à renforcer sa cohésion. Territoire officiellement découpé selon un plan de partage européen, la Jordanie se trouve en première ligne du principal conflit régional, celui qui oppose les Arabes à leur voisin israélien. Ceci a bien sûr contribué à créer beaucoup de tensions politiques internes pendant un

demi-siècle, en freinant la Jordanie dans sa volonté de se doter d'une identité nationale.

Mais le fait le plus remarquable de ce passé récent reste la stabilité de la monarchie, maintes fois menacée, qui a notamment su survivre à plusieurs guerres régionales, la dernière en date étant la guerre du Golfe.

La création de la Jordanie actuelle a résulté des plans et des accords secrets contradictoires établis par les Britanniques

pour le partage de l'empire Ottoman. Fondé en 1921, l'émirat de Transjordanie est devenu indépendant en 1946, prenant alors le nom de Royaume hachémite de Jordanie. L'émir Abdallah est l'artisan de cette indépendance. Le roi Hussein est lui son garant depuis 1953.

En 1921, l'émir Abdallah, un des quatre fils du Cheïf Hussein de la Mecque, est choisi par les Britanniques pour administrer la Transjordanie. L'émir arrive alors à unifier les trois gou-

vernements locaux. Dans les années qui suivent, Abdallah parvient à gagner plus d'autonomie. Et après la seconde guerre mondiale, le rôle actif de la Transjordanie aux côtés de la Grande-Bretagne précipite la promesse d'indépendance qui lui a été faite. En 1946, le mandat britannique prend fin et l'Angleterre reconnaît la Jordanie comme un Etat pleinement indépendant.

Le demi-siècle d'indépendance que s'approprie à fêter la Jordanie a été marqué par de nombreuses guerres, qui ont bien sûr eu beaucoup de conséquences sur l'évolution économique, sociale et politique du pays. Dès 1947, plusieurs milliers de Palestiniens franchissent le Jourdain pour trouver refuge sur la rive orientale. Un afflux de population qui ne cessera de se poursuivre au fil des crises internationales, et que l'économie jordanienne n'absorbe que progressivement. Certains secteurs sont parfois frappés de plein fouet, comme par exemple en 1967 lors de la bataille de Karameh. Un affrontement entre les Israéliens et les Palestiniens dans ce village du Ghor situé à la frontière jordanienne qui a eu de graves conséquences sur le secteur agricole, les habitants de cette région étant obligés de se réfugier en ville.

**Une nouvelle ère, celle de la paix**

La crise économique qui s'aggrave en Jordanie à la fin des années 80 a suscité beaucoup de mécontentement parmi la population. Des émeutes éclatent début 1989 juste après



En signant le 26 octobre 1994 le traité de paix israélo-jordanien, le roi Hussein a fait prendre à la Jordanie un des virages les plus importants de son histoire contemporaine.

l'annonce par le gouvernement d'une série de hausses des prix. Pour satisfaire certaines revendications de la rue, le roi annonce alors la tenue d'élections législatives libres qui ont lieu en novembre.

Quelques mois plus tard, avec la guerre du Golfe, la Jordanie se retrouve au cœur d'une nouvelle tourmente politique et économique. Le dernier conflit régional en date a en effet accentué la récession des années 80 en plongeant la Jordanie dans un gouffre économique dont elle tente aujourd'hui encore de se sortir. La Banque Mondiale estime à trois milliards de dollars les pertes

économiques dues à la guerre du Golfe.

Aujourd'hui, le Royaume entame une nouvelle étape dans sa vie politique, celle de la paix. Grâce à la signature de l'accord de paix israélo-jordanien en 1994, la Jordanie espère opérer un redressement économique important.

Les deux pays ont décidé l'établissement de relations diplomatiques entre eux, et l'ouverture réciproque d'ambassades. Très vite, des groupes de touristes israéliens ont franchi le Jourdain, laissant augurer le développement d'un secteur touristique très prometteur. Le retrait des troupes israéliennes

des territoires jordaniens occupés, soit 385 kilomètres carrés, a été achevé en février 1995. Quelques projets économiques ont d'ailleurs déjà vu le jour sur ces parcelles.

La coopération israélo-jordanienne sera l'un des enjeux principaux dans l'avenir, le royaume de Jordanie attendant de cette paix des retombées économiques importantes.

A condition bien sûr que ces relations futures reposent sur une réelle collaboration, et que chaque pays tire autant de profits de cet accord de paix.

Souad Refiti Enallmer

## Cinéma

# L'Europe montre sa bobine

Le huitième festival du film européen d'Amman offre jusqu'au 29 mai un aperçu de la production cinématographique européenne à travers une sélection d'une dizaine de longs métrages.

## Le programme du festival

### Jeudi 23 mai

17h00: «Das Versprechen» (Allemagne) de Margarethe von Trotta. L'histoire de deux adolescents séparés par l'Histoire et la construction du mur de Berlin, qui tentent, 28 ans après, de se retrouver.

20h00: «Un indien dans la ville» de Hervé Palud. La découverte de Paris par Mimi-Silva, petit indien d'Amazonie, qui va ruiner par ses facéties et ses turbulences le projet de mariage de son père français.

### Vendredi 24 mai

17h00: «Un indien dans la ville».

20h00: «Nionde kompaniet» (Suède) de Colin Nulley. Une comédie dans laquelle se trouvent bousculés les frontières de la moralité sociale dans un tranquille petit village.

### Dimanche 26 mai

17h00: «Nionde kompaniet».

20h00: «Anchoress» (Belgique) de Chris Newby. L'histoire d'une adolescente emportée dans ses rêves, tour à tour sainte ou sorcière selon les croyances irrationnelles de son entourage, qui finit par s'évader.

### Lundi 27 mai

17h00: «Anchoress».

20h00: «Después del sueño» (Espagne) de Mario Camus. La quête d'un jeune homme curieux qui se lance à la recherche d'un trésor mystérieux et qui découvre finalement la véritable valeur des choses.

### Mardi 28 mai

17h00: «Después del sueño».

20h00: «Jaguar» (Grèce) de Katerina Evangelakou. Histoire d'un héritage qui, après quinze années d'effacement, laissera deux femmes en peine avec la mémoire commune d'un passé déchiré.

### Mercredi 29 mai

17h00: «Jaguar».

20h00: «Les enfants de lumière». Un documentaire retraçant l'histoire du cinéma français à travers de nombreux extraits de films, sur une musique de Michel Legrand.

Tous les films sont projetés à l'Auditorium «Prince Hassan» de l'université de Jordanie.

Le prix d'entrée est d'un dinar, les étudiants ne payant que 500 fils.

Mona Kaddoumi

# C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

## Cinéma

«La reine Margot», de Patrice Chéreau avec Isabelle Adjani, Daniel Auteuil... Le 27 mai à 20h00 au Centre culturel français.

## Mode

Le 29 mai à 20h00 au Forte Grand. Huit mannequins présenteront 80 modèles de «prêt-à-porter» et de «haute couture».

## Exposition

Yvan Pommaux et Christophe Besse, illustrateurs de livres pour enfants, exposent leurs planches jusqu'au 31 mai au Centre culturel français.

## Télévision

Nagui arrive sur le petit écran jordanien à une heure de grande écoute. Son émission musicale Taratata est désormais diffusée à 20h00 le jeudi soir sur la deuxième chaîne.

## La Jordanie racontée aux Français

Les publications françaises concernant la Jordanie sont assez rares pour que l'on signale la sortie d'un ouvrage s'intéressant à l'histoire d'un pays largement méconnu en France.

Son auteur, Marc Lavergne, a notamment dirigé le Centre d'études et de recherches sur le Moyen-Orient contemporain d'Amman qu'il a fondé en 1988.

Son livre «La Jordanie» paru au début de cette année s'intéresse de façon généraliste à la fois à l'histoire de ce pays, à son économie et à sa société.

Il nous permet notamment de comprendre dans l'extrait qui suit la signification exacte du 25 mai 1946, décreté jour de l'indépendance nationale.

«Mais la fin de la guerre va le (ndlr: le roi Abdallah) détourner de son projet, car des perspectives plus réalistes se dessinent: la Grande-Bretagne sort victorieuse, mais épuisée, du conflit; elle doit consentir à l'émancipation de bon nombre de ses possessions. Comme ceux de la France, ses mandats en Orient sont désormais anachroniques et doivent accéder à l'indépendance. Le comportement d'Abdallah durant la guerre ayant été jugé satisfaisant, et même méritoire, c'est sans réticence que les Anglais décident de le confirmer dans ses fonctions à la tête d'un nouvel Etat.

Le 22 mars 1946, la Transjordanie est reconnue comme «un Etat indépendant et son altesse l'émir comme son souverain», dans un traité d'alliance, dont les annexes restreignent cependant considérablement l'étendue des concessions britanniques. Londres garde en effet la haute main sur les finances, qu'elle continue à alimenter, et sur l'armée, toujours dirigée par Glubb Pacha...»

Le 25 mai 1946, le Conseil législatif prête serment à «Sa majesté le Roi du Royaume hachémite de Jordanie...»

«La Jordanie» de Marc Lavergne, éditions Karthala.



## Elections israéliennes

# Les voix arabes au cœur du scrutin

Mercredi prochain, les Arabes israéliens vont peser de tout leur poids dans un scrutin décisif. Les voix de cette minorité aux droits longtemps ignorés vont en effet décider de la victoire ou de la défaite de Shimon Peres.

«Arabes d'Israël», «Palestiniens d'Israël», ou «Palestiniens de 1948». Peu importe le terme que l'on emploie pour désigner cette minorité d'Israël qui, avec 850 000 membres, représente 17% de la population.

Aujourd'hui, cette frange israélienne peut jouer dans les élections du 29 mai un rôle déterminant, tout comme la minorité des colons.

Les Palestiniens de 1948 sont ceux qui ont pu rester dans leurs maisons et sur leurs terres après la création de l'Etat d'Israël et le premier exode forcé de la population palestinienne vers les pays arabes voisins pour s'entasser dans des camps misérables de réfugiés.

Depuis sa création, l'Etat d'Israël a entrepris un processus de négation totale de l'identité de ces Palestiniens par tous les moyens possibles: la confiscation des terres, l'interdiction de toute activité politique et le refus, dans un premier temps, d'octroyer la nationalité israélienne. Ce n'est en effet qu'en 1956 que l'Etat hébreu décide de faire de ces Palestiniens des citoyens israéliens, tout en les reléguant à une catégorie inférieure. Dépourvus de certains droits civiques et écartés des obligations militaires, ils arrivent dans la hiérarchie derrière les Israéliens venant de l'Occident, les Israéliens orientaux et les Druzes.

Sur le plan politique, et ce jusqu'en 1967, seul le parti politique communiste israélien parvient à capter leurs voix. Après la création de l'OLP et d'une

identité nationale palestinienne, l'identification des Arabes d'Israël à une patrie palestinienne commence à se développer pour atteindre son point fort en mars 1976, date de «la journée de la terre». La guerre du Liban en 1982 avec le massacre de Sabra et Chatila et le déclenchement de l'intifada vont contribuer à renforcer cette identification au fil des années.

Parallèlement, les Arabes israéliens parviennent peu à peu à trouver leur place dans la société israélienne.

Une nouvelle génération apparaît composée de médecins, d'ingénieurs ou d'hommes d'affaires. Effrayés par cette évolution, certains cercles israéliens commencent alors à parler de «bombes à retardement». Des partis politiques arabes voient le jour, représentant toutes les tendances y compris les islamistes. Le mot d'ordre de tous les dirigeants est le même: l'égalité des Juifs et des Arabes dans un «Etat d'Israël fait pour tous ses citoyens», et un Etat palestinien indépendant dans les frontières de 1967 à côté d'Israël.

Les Arabes israéliens ont peu



Durant la campagne, Benjamin Netanyahu, le dirigeant du Likoud, a multiplié les promesses en faveur des colons israéliens.

à peu commencé à peser dans la vie politique israélienne, et notamment à la Knesset. Ainsi, l'an dernier, lorsque le gouvernement israélien a décidé de confisquer de nouvelles terres à Jérusalem, les députés arabes ont menacé de faire tomber le gouvernement travailliste en approuvant une motion de censure présentée par la droite.

C'est à ce moment-là que la classe politique israélienne a vraiment réalisé l'importance de la force politique arabe.

Aujourd'hui, à la veille des élections, la présence de 440 000 électeurs (soit 13% de l'électorat) acquiert une importance particulière dans la mesure où il s'agit pour la première fois d'élire le Premier ministre et les 120 députés. C'est pour cette raison que Shimon Peres cherche depuis

des mois une entente avec les partis arabes, tout comme son rival Benjamin Netanyahu. Le choix sera difficile pour les électeurs arabes à l'heure du scrutin.

Si beaucoup veulent barrer la route du pouvoir au Likoud, certains auront du mal à voter pour celui qui a commis le massacre de Cana et qui maintient depuis trois mois le blocage des territoires. Ils devraient cependant massivement voter pour Shimon Peres, suivant ainsi la politique de l'OLP qui a multiplié ces dernières semaines les gestes de bonne volonté en direction du gouvernement travailliste comme l'abrogation de la charte nationale palestinienne.

A Gaza, Hassan Balawi

## Un vote qui pèse plus lourd

Pour la première fois, les Israéliens doivent élire non seulement les 120 députés de la Knesset mais aussi, directement, le chef de leur gouvernement pour un mandat de quatre ans. Un double scrutin qui pourrait éventuellement introduire une situation nouvelle dans la vie politique israélienne: l'élection d'un Premier ministre ne disposant pas d'une majorité à la Chambre.

Seuls deux candidats s'affrontent pour le poste de Premier ministre, le travailliste Shimon Peres et le chef de la droite Benjamin Netanyahu. Leurs messages, qui se ressemblent beaucoup, ont plongé une partie de l'électorat dans l'indécision.

M. Peres, 73 ans, affirme qu'il achèvera la paix en refusant tout partage de Jérusalem avec les Palestiniens. Un discours que tient aussi son rival, M. Netanyahu, 47 ans, qui rejette toute nouvelle concession aux Palestiniens tout en sachant que le processus de paix est allé trop loin pour espérer aujourd'hui revenir en arrière.

Suhail Al Sweis

23 May 1996

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Turkish Cultural Centre	639777	Al Hussein Sports City	667181/5
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